

Colney Heath Parish Council



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04 DECEMBER 2008

MINUTES OF THE COLNEY HEATH- FULL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD at the Village Hall Colney Heath AL4 0NS

-on THURSDAY-4TH DECEMBER 2008-7.30.pm

Present; - Chair-Cllr Brazier-Cllr Cloke-Cllr Horner-Cllr Rump -Cllr Crump-
Cllr Day-Cllr Reeves-(& 1 Vacancy Hill End Ward-vacancy notices have now expired)

Clerk; Mr J E Dean

Public Attendance- Mr D Becker

1. APOLOGIES -ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECLARATIONS

No apologies were received however Cllr Henchley telephoned after the meeting to sending his apologies having been unable to attend. There were no declarations by members present on the matters contained in agenda. The Chair reminded members that we have the Budget to follow at 9pm in Part II. Also some of the items in section 3 might be better deferred to the budget meeting or next meeting-15th January 2009.

2. MINUTES

Minutes of the Full Council-6th November 2008

Proposed by Cllr

Seconded by Cllr

The minutes were agreed and signed by Chair Cllr Brazier as being correct.

2.1 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES


There were no matters arising from the minutes, save a minor typo's.

3 MATTERS THE CHAIRMAN MAY BRING BEFORE THE COUNCIL

Cllr Brazier said he had no additional matters to bring before the council this time.

3.1 Proposed New Co-Opted Member

Cllr Brazier welcomed the prospective new member Jane Lewis; he asked the Clerk if we had any further applications, we had not. The Clerk confirmed statutory vacancy notice had been put out and had expired on the 28th November. Council were able to proceed with co-option. The Chair said he had not seen the application letter so far, the Clerk was certain that it had been copied out to all members. If this had slipped he apologised, but noting office procedure it had been ticked ok- confirming circulation had taken place. Other members said they had not seen the copy or reply from Clerk.


15/11/09

The Clerk asked the Chair if he should read out the application, and then proceeded to do so, with the formal process of acceptance of a new member Ms Jane Lewis of 63 Highfield Lane St Albans. The Clerk confirmed all the requirements have been met regarding the checking of the current Electoral Roll. The candidate is registered there. The Chair asked for a proposal and vote for co-opting the new member.

Proposed Cllr Rump

Seconded Cllr Day

With unanimous voting Cllr Brazier invited Cllr Jane Lewis to join the council.

3.2 Legal Issues-Action Secretary of State over Planning Enquiry reversal

The matter of further donations was made from Cllr Day; the Clerk confirmed he had written to the DC at the suggestion of Cllr Brazier and expecting a donation.

Cllr Brazier said the date of the High Court hearing is 16th January 2009 he was to attend as a witness. He also confirmed that Mr Robb had not signed the current order. The Clerk drew attention to latest details of new "interested party defence" papers received from Debenhams-Ottaway today. Adding he will copy all members in next post out for information. The member's questions were answered by Cllr Brazier over the issue. Cllr Horner asked about additional caravans on the site and Cllr Day about the gates. All are in breach of previous agreements- no planning applications received. Cllr Brazier asked if every member happy with the decision and all gave their support for the continuation of the necessary legal action. Further debate may come in Part II.

3.3 Parish Conference for St Albans District.

Cllr Brazier in response to the offer of matched funding wondered if we had got it right that up to £15k was on offer. Cllr Brazier was of a different opinion as to how much was on offer. The Clerk said he hoped this was right he was sure he had heard correctly. We would find out soon as a proposed meeting with the Chair and leader Cllr R Donald was to take place next week. His idea put forward at the conference was for making significant street scene improvements around the parish's in the district. The Clerk said discuss member's ideas about this in the Part II following.

3.4 Lease of Pavilion Building

Cllr Brazier invited Cllr Rump to give an overview of the negotiations with the club and terms and conditions. It was very important we debated this in open council and Cllr Brazier acknowledged the Clerk's noting on the Part II agenda. Cllr Rump went on to inform the progress adding that the club was not trading as well as usual due to the financial crisis. It was possible that if the lease was too high the keys might have to be returned. It was clear that whilst council could find other tenants that was not the objective here at this stage. Debate then followed with questions from Cllr's Horner-Crump and Day on detail issues. The Clerk had spoken to the DV office and loss of the Rugby club would only decrease valuation by £1000. Other considerations were to package the insurance into the lease and seek the DV valuation of £6000.00 p.a.

Current values were also explained as we had already reached financial agreement on the buildings insurance for the rest of this year. The debate continued about wording with Cllr Crum looking at clause 26 suggested taking out "Without good reason" will be a fairer sentence. It was also important that the public had rights of free access to the area and we were only leasing the building. The pitch was a separate negotiation as it affected both junior and senior pitches as well as practise. Cllr Cloke wanted an assurance that people could still walk the area even with dogs, answer-yes they can.

The Clerk said he had sent lease copies to CHFC executive and they were considering the response which the Clerk would like back early new year with any changes. These will be combined with CHPC suggestions in order to further the final document.

3.5 Chronicle Magazine and Web Site upgrade

The real time presentation by D Rodway on the site up-grades with an explanation to members, the Chair said the site was looking good and professional. Links to other parish activities and the residents associations, plus a diary in the new-year enhancing the interest to all who hit the site for information. David said he expects eventually the office will be able to take charge of adding regular material such as agendas, minutes. Cllr Crump wanted information and prospectus added for Treasure Tots, but the Clerk was not keen to publish information that could be uplifted and plagiarised too easily. After all it was CHPC copyright and took a great deal of time and expense to write. On a sad note David Rodway added that the printer had ceased trading on Friday last due to the economic situation. He also said that lack of long runs, ink and paper costs had risen significantly the business was losing money. He has another printer with whom he has other work at Ware. He is putting the job to them and we should not see any significant changes. Costs might increase for different reasons but no more than a reasonable percentage to cover raw materials. The Clerk gave members verbal data of the magazine production costs p.a. as being in the region of £5,000. (Circa- 44p copy)

3.6 Venue of some future Meetings

It was decided that the 5th February Meeting will be held at Charles Morris Hall and the AGM on the 16th April 2009 as well. Cllr Rump agreed to confirm the booking arrangements with management committee. The Trestle booking will be cancelled.

3.7 Colney Heath Parish Council Year Events

Cllr Horner confirmed arrangements of Over 60's lunch, on 12th December, all was running to plan. More washer ups were required and others to help clear up. The Guest list is 87 strong; Cllr Brazier asked that the honoured guests be seated at each table if possible. The Panto is booked and a few tickets still left, date is Friday 4th January 2009 at the JMI. Contact Kim Parker Mead who is running the event again.

3.8 Matters of Serious Anti Social Behaviour

Details circulated before the meeting. The Clerk confirmed the list was up to date.

4. FINANCE

4.1 Financial Report

The Clerk gave details about our financial situation. Cllr Brazier said he would defer the business here to the Part II other than voting for the 4.2 monthly expenditure. The Clerk said he will write the minutes of this item leaving it in the usual section 4.

4.2 Parish Accounts

The Clerk gave out the council financial matters supported by data reports to each member;-details of December expenditure of £14,222.71 and reconciliation.

The Clerk answered member's questions.

Proposed by Cllr Rump

Seconded by Cllr Cloke.

4.3 Balance Sheet- 6 months-2008

The Clerk gave each member of council details financial report with a cumulative explanation as part of the Budget review.

4.4 Parish Audit 2007-8

The Clerk confirmed receipt of final papers from external auditor dated 31st October- in debate Council were satisfied the task was completed. The Clerk is now authorised to continue and deal with audit report issues or matters that BDO Stoy-Hayward LLP require as noted below. The procedure to publish public notices for inspection will follow during this month. The report was considered and Council recommended;-

1. Risk Assessment-Clerk to obtain software from LCRS and undertake training.
2. Internal Auditors recommendations-Clerk and Council reviewed.
3. Asset Register-Work in progress- this is considerable, Council accept limits of Clerks part time working. Some assets are beyond age and write down.
4. VAT returns work in progress see item 4.5
5. Restatement of Fixed Assets-work in progress.

Proposed;-Cllr Rump

Seconded;-Cllr Cloke

4.5 Progress of Vat & Petty Cash

Clerk gave details adding that he hoped to deal with figures for the VAT submissions during the holiday break in the quiet of his home office. There are some outstanding amounts for HMCR. Petty Cash is owed to the Clerk and he will provide more details.

4.6 Budgeted Grant Aid to be Paid- (Section 19 LGA Act-1976-Misc Provisions)

Deferred to Part II.

4.7 Parish Insurance

Renewed after acceptance by members at the November meeting.

4.8 Other Financial Matters

The Clerk advised members of the Treasury Reserve investment of £85,000 comes off at 2nd December at a rate of 4.62%. The value of the cumulative to date was noted.

4.9 Estimates of Various External Ground Works for approval

Members had asked the Clerk for estimates on various projects as noted on agenda The Clerk explained each one and suggested the best way each could be afforded progressively. Grants for two of these were out, Clerk explained what was happening. Item kept in as a reminder of the issues until dealt with or authorised.

Charles Morris Hall Fencing to keep out horses was important and should go ahead in December Cost £1710.00 this item is to go ahead in January 2009.

Fencing Posts renewal on Bridge area of Common. Opportunities for grants from Natural England for £2700 Clerk is to apply. Deadline 15th November

Cost on quote is £1910 if not successful with grant reconsider parish funds.

Roestock Park renewal of posts to prevent access by vehicles £1540-to be deferred

5 PLANNING

Planning Applications

The following applications received during December 2008 were debated briefly at the meeting Cllr Brazier gave explanations for the issues surrounding the plans;-

General Comments

Cllr Brazier outlined the new plans for Oakland’s Development, members including Cllr Reeves and Cllr Crump mentioned the number of houses had reduced slightly. The turning circle for the refuse lorry concerned Cllr Reeves he stated that there were other GB issues and he had written to the DC in a private capacity about this. He wished it be noted that a copy of his letter was lodged with the Clerk. The Clerk does confirm that the letter is on file and Cllr Reeves had declared his interest correctly.

Cllr Brazier also confirmed to members that the district council’s newly in post - Head of Planning is Mr John Young MSc-MRICS-DMS-Dip M.

5-1 Planning Applications: As listed below and received up to the date of this agenda publication-**bold= topical**;-

Planning Lists Received

Printed list circulated to all members;-

As sent	From SCADC	
	Weekly lists	Circulated to members

Beaumont School Glinwells & Two Oaklands plans;-

Planning consultation and consent issues

See Bold Type.

5-1 Planning Applications:

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

Number	Address	Application	Decision/Recommendation
5/08/0620	Oakland’s College Smallford Campus	Erection of new college building for Oakland’s and assoc educational buildings to provide total of 31930 sqm of educational floor space and erection of 62 flats and houses. Demolition of existing use of former mansion house as 26 units of non self contained accom. Use of former stable block as children’s nursery and retention of cottage within walled garden and assc lodges. Provision of sports pitches, 820 car parking spaces, highway works including a new access from Hatfield Rd with new roundabout, landscaping and other ancillary development	Cllr Brazier- CHPC response submitted. Debated at SCADC July Dev control meeting- New issues of calling in by Sec State over GB & LDF Plans for District

5/08/2515CE	58 Wynchess Farm Drive	Cert of Lawfulness- loft con /rear dormer window	No objections
5/08/2447	10 Firwood avenue	Two storey side and single storey rear extension with loft conversion and two rear dormer window	No objections, but object to overlooking of neighbouring properties if this is the case
5/08/2433	16 Church Croft	Erection of outbuilding	No objections
5/08/2470	76 Tollgate Road	Single storey rear ext	No objections
5/08/2571	2 St Yon Court	First floor side extension	No objections
5/08/2539	58 Tollgate Rd	Con of gge into habitable room, single storey front ext and alt to openings	No objections
5/08/2497	55 Russet Drive	Roof alterations to include loft conversion with three dormer windows and two storey rear extension	Opposed - Overdevelopment over in the Green Belt
5/08/2546	1 Park Corner	Two storey side and rear extension and alterations to openings	Opposed – This application does not address our previous objections to the first application. This is a unique area and the extension would have a detrimental effect on the Green belt. These houses were bought by the Water Board for their site is also adjacent to the common and have a harmful visual impact.
5/08/2528	48 Russet Drive	Single storey rear extension	No objections
5/08/2579	18 Church croft	Loft conversion with two rear dormer windows and alterations to openings	With Cllr Brazier 26/11/2008
5/08/2429	Former Oaklands College site- Highfield Lane	Large Development - Demolition of all existing buildings and erection of thirty four houses including twelve affordable units sixty five parking spaces, open space and landscaping	With Cllr Brazier 26/11/2008

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

5-2 Planning Approvals

As listed since last meeting

Number	Address	Application	SCADC Decision
5/08/1661	101 Tollgate Rd	Two storey rear and side extension	Planning Permission
5/08/2195	23 Starlight Way	First floor and single storey front extension and alterations to openings	Planning Permission
5/08/1985	21 Stanmore Chase	Single storey rear extension	Planning Permission
5/08/2064	8 Manston Way	Single storey rear extension and alterations to openings	Planning Permission

5/08/2003 -5/08/1712CON -23 Station Road Smallford-Approved Development

Demolition and reconstruction of Garage attached to and reading conjunction with Decision Notice dated 19/08/2003 & 09/09/08 Approved subject to materials agreed.

See Attached Sheet for Planning Approvals- Appendix

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

5.3 Refusals

	No reports		
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5.3 Appeals

As reported in Agenda

5-3-1 Planning-Appeals-Inquiries-Enforcements-Other issues

	No reports		
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5.4 Appeals & Public Inquiries

No reports.

OTHER TOPICAL ITEMS FOR INFORMATION-following>

5.5 Go East-SEERA Consultation Regional Assembly-Gypsy Site Allocations

Members to note Cllr Brazier attended meeting on 23rd October putting ACADC & CHPC point of view at SEERA consultation at The Spirella Ballroom Letchworth. Clerk will circulate any further reports or minutes from this continuing consultation.

5.5-1 The Planning Inspectorate Bristol-Regional Strategy Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation in the East of England.

Cllr Brazier said he expected we will see the results of the report in the early new-year and it will determine sites. This is a government policy to have the issue dealt with in this way previously reported in past minutes- The opinion of St Albans DC has enough sites and other DC's should have more of a share, excluding GB land. There was adequate brownfield land available for the travellers use. Social problems and impact on settled community often follow with badly planned sites.

Other brief items;-

Stanstead Airport

Second runway Application SSE Team e-mail 1st August-will go ahead.

Response Gypsy Sites in Hertfordshire & East of England

Recent issues and SEERA response noted-see above.

Planning Portal

Kept on agenda-any member's comments?

Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment for SCADC

Cllr Brazier said the DC has to do a strategic land survey as part of LDF. Details soon

London Green Belt Council

Cllr Crump is parish representative.

BT Payphones

Remain at risk-Possible reduction or removal of pay phones as part of BT plans to reduce service-see HATPC lists of removals. Tyttenhanger might be at future risk.

NATS-Air Traffic Control Consultation

No reports- now removed until further information is received

Helioslough.

Cllr Brazier said this is back on the planning agenda with an appeal to Sec of State.

5-6 Planning Monitoring

Matters the Clerk may wish to inform or members have reports where applicable

Air Quality-(Contained in HHC report) Cllr Crump said he has written to land agents Landfill & Quarry-Clerk pointed out new grants are available of parish's within 10km Minerals & Waste-Noted that Hertfordshire may be under EEC pressure to improve Licences-No reports-
Local Delivery Framework Policy-under review by DC-probably not ready until 2010
Other Monitoring issues-Clerk or members had none to report.

5.7 Smallford Station Preservation order

Kept on agenda-Cllr Reeves mentioned its importance, could we find a use for it.

5.8 Section 106 Money to be used in Colney Heath

As previously noted on past minutes Cllr Brazier is keen to stake a claim that any developer funds from S106 are for the benefit of Colney Heath as the village faces continued demands for building. A meeting is still to be arranged with Cllr Brazier + Clerk with SCADC regarding the Sect 106 on hold over Oakland's Development

6 COMMONS OPEN SPACES & PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

The written reports were considered of:-

Draft Green Spaces Strategy

Noted-no further reports

6-1 Parish Warden Report

Clerk circulated this to members at the meeting.

6-2 Parish Commons Ranger Report

Monthly report not circulated-will send out in post out when received.

6-3 Parish Gardner and Tennis Courts Attendant Reports

Report circulated to members at the meeting usual seasonal clearance of gardens and cutting back. All looks clean and tidy-No play on courts reported.

6-4 Church & Graveyard Keepers work/time sheet

No specific reports this time-but again with usual duties undertaken results are good.

6-5 CHPC Grass Cutting Contract

No reports last cut has been made this season-Members did agree to winter work by Mr Paxton on Furze Field cutting overhang and scrub-recover 5m x100m for £350.00 The Clerk said with this approval he will ask Mr Paxton to go ahead with this job as soon as possible. It was also agreed that the risings will be burnt on site on an out of the way area. In the same way as the volunteer's day cuttings will be disposed of later.

6-6 Commons-Grazing & Stewardship

Cllr Crump spoke about the commons clearance day on 22nd November; he said it was attacked in two ways to remove the unwanted hazel saplings that appear white flower in the spring. The gorse and heather is the indigenous species as part of the natural heath land, the hazel is an unwanted intrusion. The volunteer Party including Cllr Day, Cllr Cloke Charles Nash- Tony Bralant, cleared a portion by digging out the rooted saplings. The Clerk John Dean took his pole chainsaw to the other areas where more mature tree saplings needed a severe cutting out. Cllr Crump also thanked Trudi Dean for bringing the refreshments and providing hot food and drinks. The day was

successful he thanked the volunteers for their time and efforts. It was rewarding and well worth the effort, he would like to see a volunteer day in January to clear more. Clerk advised the remaining saplings left on the ground are to be cleared or burnt. The plan is to try and arrange a community service party which might be available via probation office on a day in January. Health & Safety and ability has to be resolved with probation service as the first condition to getting this task done. Clerk will be on the common and possibly with Mr Paxton on that day when it is finally arranged. At this stage we are not certain if a week-end or week day will be available for the task to be undertaken by the probation workers. Clerk will meet with controller to discuss.

6.7 Recreation Areas & Reports

Gloucester Park

As previously reported this land ownership has not been identified -we are continuing to maintain the area.

Roestock Park

No reports-other than quote for renewal of posts.

Sleapshyde Recreation Area

New play equipment installation going in Sleapshyde play area nearing completion. Cllr Lee was advised about progress and his complaint was noted on the site issues.

Sleapshyde Pond

No reports last inspection satisfactory

Charles Morris

The hedge works has been done-rear boundary fencing to do-Mr Paxton has job out to do hedge next to no 13 after consulting resident first.

High Street Recreation area

No reports this time.

Smallford Dog Walk

No reports from recent inspection.

Community Park

No reports from recent inspection-resin seat to be purchased at some stage. Plus the need for installing a dog waste bin at some stage.

Dudley Wood Open Space Recreation Area

Transfer of title to London Colney PC who have been carrying out maintenance. Title documents proving hard to find, Clerk in contact with Debenham Ottaway Cllr Reeves suggested the land might be under Charity Commission remit. The Clerk added Land Registry might be the only resolve- he might have to visit in new-year.

General Comment on open spaces

Cllr Reeves wanted more detail on the recreation areas in the agenda in future, the Clerk said that was possible also to include other areas such as the pond at Sleapshyde and Harvesters included with the dog walk. Clerk said he will include next time.

6-8 Footpaths P3 and Rights of Way-Bridleways-BOAT-RUPP F/path 44 and 23

Clerk has quote from Centrewire for new DDA gates planned for the above paths. Clerk has member's approval for purchase. Grant application already made to CMS for £1000.00. In response to a question from Cllr Horner the commons bridleway project is a future agenda subject for defining a clear marked route across the centre.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS -Item 8 Brought Forward at 8.30pm

Cllr Brazier said he would bring forward this item in order to hear from those present on any issues affecting Colney Heath. He answered questions over the Nuckies Farm matter and other subjects already covered earlier. (Coffee & mince pies was served) Cllr Brazier also mentioned at this stage about his invitation to speak to the Barley Mow Residents Association at the invitation of Mr N McCabe, Gypsy Liaison officer. He told members about the event and said he was quite well received. He had made it quite clear on his views over illegal camps and breaches of planning issues. He had no other issues towards any other community if they "kept the rules" it was fine by him. In attending he said that he was thanked and treated very courteously by the meeting.

7 HIGHWAYS-TRANSPORT-FOOTPATHS AND VERGES

7.1 Highways & Maintenance & Signs local Roads or major route reports

No reports as there has been no formal meeting with Damian Higgins this period. Again the report is that very few if any of the jobs promised had been carried which is disappointing. A spreadsheet supporting the four outstanding jobs was past given to members but to date HHWP have not responded with details or completion statements Cllr Brazier said the SCADC verge parking restrictions were supposed to go ahead this month but that has not happened so far. Cllr Brazier spoke about the £10K improvements to the school crossing by painting barriers yellow, any improvements that bring safety are important. Especially the speeding motorists who very frequently ignore the crossing, children and school patrol whilst using the High Street rat run. Cllr Crump continues to keep his campaign going on a weight restriction control on the Smallford Railway Bridge to dissuade the frequent HGV use or via Sat Nav. Damian Higgins has not come back on the enquiry from the Clerk as to who owned the land (believed Highways Authority) to site a bus shelter opposite the Grange. There are also plans mentioned in last months minutes to shut the Hatfield underpass for several months early next year and works on the A414 will mean 20mph speed control and single lane working. Traffic notices received are detailed here.

HCC Road Traffic Orders Received.

Lane closures and speed restrictions -A414-Westbound 40 mph & Eastwards to junction Colney Heath Lane 20 mph-6 weeks 5th January 2009-13th February 2009.

Other traffic notices brought to the members attention

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL-THE TEMPORARY CLOSING OF VARIOUS ROADS IN COLNEY HEATH AND ST ALBANS

NOTICE is given that the Hertfordshire County Council intend to make an Order under Section 14[1] of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, to prohibit all traffic from using the following lengths of roads, except for access:-

1. That length of High Street, Colney Heath from its junction with St Marks Close northwards to its junction with A414 North Orbital Road, a distance of approximately 175 metres.

The alternative route for traffic will be via:-

High Street, Coursers Road, A1081 London Colney Bypass, A414 North Orbital Road and vice versa

It is anticipated that this section of road will be closed for up to 6 weeks, sometime during the period 5 January 2009 and 30 April 2009, when signs are in place.

2. That length of Colney Heath Lane, St Albans from its junction with A414 North Orbital Road north westwards to its junction with Barley Mow Lane, a distance of approximately 400 metres.

The alternative route for northbound traffic will be via:-
A414 North Orbital Road, A1001 Comet Way, A1057 (St Albans Road West, Hatfield Road) and Colney Heath Lane

The alternative route for southbound traffic will be via:-
Colney Heath Lane, A1057 Hatfield Road, Ashley Road, Drakes Drive, A1081 London Road and A414 North Orbital Road

3. that length of Smallford Lane, St Albans from its junction with A414 North Orbital Road north eastwards to its junction with Sleapcross Gardens, a distance of approximately 30 metres.

The alternative route for northbound traffic will be via:-
A414 North Orbital Road, A1001 Comet Way, A1057 (St Albans Road West, Hatfield Road), Station Road and Smallford Lane

The alternative route for southbound traffic will be via:-
Smallford Lane, Station Road, A1057 Hatfield Road, Ashley Road, Drakes Drive, A1081 London Road and A414 North Orbital Road

It is anticipated that these sections of roads will be closed between the hours of 9.00pm and 6.00am (Mondays to Sundays inclusive) for up to 6 weeks, sometime during the period 5 January 2009 and 30 April 2009, when signs are in place.

4. That length of Napsbury Lane, St Albans from its junction with B5378 Napsbury Lane south eastwards to its junction with A414 North Orbital Road, a distance of approximately 368 metres.

The alternative route for traffic will be via:-
B5378 (Napsbury Lane, Shenley Lane), A414 North Orbital Road (westbound), A405/A414 Park Street roundabout and A414 North Orbital Road (eastbound)

5. That length of Highfield Lane, St Albans from its junction with A414 North Orbital Road north westwards for a distance of approximately 75 metres.

The alternative route for traffic will be via:-
Highfield Lane, Highfield Park Drive, A1081 London Road and A414 North Orbital Road

It is anticipated that these sections of roads will be closed between the hours of 9.00pm and 5.00am (Mondays to Sundays inclusive) for up to 6 weeks, sometime during the period 5 January 2009 and 30 April 2009, when signs are in place.

The purpose of the Order is to enable highway maintenance works to take place.

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL NOTICE OF TEMPORARY TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES IN A414 NORTH ORBITAL ROAD, ST ALBANS & HATFIELD

NOTICE is given that the Hertfordshire County Council intend to make an Order under Section 14[1] of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which will be:-

1. To prohibit all traffic from using that length of A414 North Orbital Road, St Albans/Hatfield from its junction with the A414 London Colney roundabout, St Albans north eastwards to its junction with the A1(M) (junction 3) roundabout, Hatfield, a distance of approximately 4730 metres, except for access.

The alternative route for northbound motorway traffic will be via:-

A1081 London Colney Bypass, M25 (junction 22-23) and A1(M) (junction 1-2)

The alternative route for southbound motorway traffic will be via:-

A1001 Roehde Way, A1(M) (junction 2-1), M25 (junction 23-22) and A1081 London Colney Bypass

The alternative route for non motorway traffic will be via:-

A1081 (London Road, Chequer Street, St Peters Street), A1057 (Hatfield Road, St Albans Road West), A1001 Comet Way and vice versa

It is anticipated that the section of road will be closed between the hours of 9.00pm and 6.00am (Mondays to Sundays inclusive) for up to 6 weeks, sometime during the period 5 January 2009 and 30 April 2009, when signs are in place.

2. To prohibit all vehicles from being driven at a speed exceeding 40mph on that length of A414 North Orbital Road, St Albans/Hatfield from its junction with the A5183 Watling Street/A405 North Orbital Road roundabout, St Albans south eastwards and north eastwards to its junction with the A1(M) (junction 3) roundabout, Hatfield, a distance of approximately 7700 metres.
3. To prohibit all vehicles from being driven at a speed exceeding 20mph on that length of A414 North Orbital Road, St Albans/Hatfield from its junction with the A5183 Watling Street/A405 North Orbital Road roundabout, St Albans south eastwards and north eastwards to its junction with the A1(M) (junction 3) roundabout, Hatfield, a distance of approximately 7700 metres.
4. To prohibit all vehicles from being driven at a speed exceeding 10mph on that length of A414 North Orbital Road, St Albans/Hatfield from its junction with the A5183 Watling Street/A405 North Orbital Road roundabout, St Albans south eastwards and north eastwards to its junction with the A1(M) (junction 3) roundabout, Hatfield, a distance of approximately 7700 metres.

It is anticipated temporary speed restrictions will be in place for up to 6 weeks, sometime during period 5th January 2009 and 30 April 2009, when signs are in place. The purpose of the Order is to enable highway maintenance works to take place.

Temporary Closure of Barley Mow Lane

Consultation out now with further consideration by HHWP with a final decision in is expected early in the new-year- 2009. Other parties will have to be consulted.

Cycle Way round about Colney Heath

Not left off agenda, but a topic to remain under review, connected to S106 money

7-2 Paths and Access-and verge ditch works attached or adjacent to Highways

Matters noted in a general debate on matters but no reports.

7.3 Tollgate Road-Cameras

Clerk to write and find out if any grants are available from SCADC or HHWP for possible installation next parish year-expect the cost to be in the region of £8,000.

7.4 M25 Widening starting summer 2008

No further reports, traffic will increase locally as a result.

7-5 Transport and Community Friday Shopping Bus

Cllr Horner gave a general report with the continued success of the service. There was a brief debate on the upper age limit of drivers able to be insured. The Clerk said the normal upper age limit to qualify for an activity liability cover for a councillor was 75 The Clerk confirmed medical fees for testing the volunteer drivers is a valid council expense. Cllr Horner had accordingly been reimbursed his fee of £100.

7-6 Long –About A414

The Clerk said he had raised the matter at the Parish Conference to Daniel Goodwin and the response is the project is down for 2010 substantial improvements to be done.

7.7 Highway Warning Signs & Mandatory Signs

Noted and suggest keeping as a reminder

7.8 Towards Better Transport in Hertfordshire

Annual progress report setting out the Council's achievements in yrs 2006-7-2010/11 and second year of delivery of the second transport plan. This document includes the links to SEA monitoring and LAF and sustainable transport. Clerk has copy.

8 PUBLIC QUESTIONS-8.30

No further public questions, matters but noted elsewhere in minutes.

9 COUNCIL BUILDINGS-ORGANISATIONS & TRUSTEE MATTERS

9-1 High Street Recreation Area & CHFC new Lease of Pavilion Building

Cllr Brazier suggested that as we had previously debated the lease unless Cllr Rump had anything further to tell members about progress. Then we should move on.

9-2 Treasure Tots Pre-School.

Cllr Crump read out the report from the Leader, saying that we have had a good 2008 but the numbers will go down in January 2009.but is positive that they will pick up at Easter. The nursery walking bus for lunch club that brings children to us is a big success with helping parents bringing 17 children a day to here Tuesday-Friday. With a Monday session held at the JMI for that one day. (VH not available) The lunch club

is often exceeds pre-school in terms of numbers attending at ratio of 35/25. The Clerk (also Treasurer) said pre school revenue was a reasonable break-even/slight profit.

9-3 Village Hall Committee

Cllr Brazier expressed concern about the use of the village hall by an ex-publican for a party on 13th December, having been told by other landlords in the village. This was also the opinion of the VHC as there was no valid reason not to take the booking. Tickets were reported as being sold to the public and clear that alcohol would be served and music was being provided. In debate several other members supported his concern and it was suggested the Clerk contact the licensing authority to confirm it was legal with the Licensing Act. The Clerk accepted to do this the following day and keep the Chair and members fully informed of the outcome.

9-4 Charles Morris Hall

Grant check for £2000 will be sent shortly.

9-5 Highfield Community Park & Trustees

No reports this time.

9-6 Other local Buildings/Organisations-Guides Scouts-Harvesters/other

No reports other than a grant issue for Part II

9-7 Youth Organisations Locally & Youth Council

No reports

9.8 Vital Villages

There is no reports-committee mothballed for time being.

10.1 Fly Tipping

Members were handed the latest report.

At this point the Chair decided to guillotine the meeting to allow the Budget debate to take place in the remaining meeting time and defer to the Part II. Items 10-12.8 are deferred until the Full Council Meeting on 15th January 2009.



John Dean
Clerk to the Council

This meeting closed at 9.15 pm

Next meeting FULL COUNCIL 7.30pm Thursday 15th January 2009-in the Village Hall

*Copies available on the parish web-site;-Note no responsibilities accepted for errors typos or mistakes until approved by council
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COLNEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

04 DECEMBER 2008-PART II

MINUTES OF THE COLNEY HEATH- PART II COUNCIL MEETING HELD

at the Village Hall Colney Heath AL4 ONS
-on THURSDAY-4TH DECEMBER 2008-9.15.pm

Present; - Chair-Cllr Brazier-Cllr Cloke-Cllr Horner-Cllr Rump -Cllr Crump-
Cllr Day-Cllr Reeves-Cllr J Lewis, (Newly co-opted member)

Clerk; Mr J E Dean

Public Attendance- Not allowed under Part II & LGA 1972

1. APOLOGIES -ANNOUNCEMENTS & DECLARATIONS

Apologies are as noted in the preceding main full council meeting

2. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

3 REVIEW OF THE CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION

Cllr Brazier spoke briefly about the options facing the council and the debate focused on the percentage increase the Clerk was about to present to members. He said that he was more comfortable with around 4% based on the 2008-9 precept. In fact most parish councils were looking at under 5% with the District Council going lower at nearer 3%. This council did not wish to increase the precept disproportionately but did wish to keep up the current level of service to the residents of Colney Heath.

4.1 Current Financial Situation

The Clerk went through the current payments and receipts for the 9 months so far in the current year saying that we are up on expenditure compared with this time last year to end of November. Additional building costs last year mainly on the Pavilion at £12k and legal issues this year £15k along with the recent investment in the new play equipment installed at Sleapshyde-£21k. Whilst we were running slightly ahead of the budget finances were under control and he expected to see his prediction of year end 2008-9 at around £164/168k against £184k in 2007-8. Further unexpected costs such as legal fees could upset that prediction, and gave a strong warning to members about taking care on these issues. Whilst agreeing with members as their RFO in taking up the issue was very much a vital and necessary expense for CHPC to seek the HC action on such a perverse judgement. But also something the village wanted to take further. The defence papers we had received to-day over Nuckies Farm did give him cause for concern in that solicitors Brown Odedra were taking up a separate position of "Third Defendant" in representing their client. Adding fresh challenges! Cllr Brazier pointed out that our legal team in particular Mr Jeremy Pike QC was now looking at a response to his defence paper. The Clerk continued to answer member's questions on previous year costs and current spending with a lower prediction on income & interest on T/Reserve. It was debated and agreed that the recommendation to council a precept of £147,100 for 09-10 is proposed on 15th January 2009 meeting.

Day
15/1/09

4.3 Grant Aid

The Clerk had prepared a spreadsheet setting out the applications for grant aid that had applied by the deadline of 21st November. In all there was nine including Treasure Tots where council give payroll support, however part of this had been written back in the normal budget. CHFC had asked for new changing rooms with matched funding coming from them £5500 and the other usual applications for various village and local associations. The Clerk reminded members of the percentage against the income and adding that last year grants were capped at £2000 each application. Cllr Rump made statements about the totals and in leading the debate on agreeing to the CHFC grant which was also supported by the Clerk. The facilities were indeed very bad and must be upgraded. The quote for works was fair. Another grant for Scout/Guide disabled toilet was granted and like the CHFC is spread over two years. Members asked if an application was being made to Scout HQ, (quite rich) but outweighed any delay as the facilities grant is provided. It was recommended to S/G a fresh estimate is sought as the costs for this type of work has reduced. Total grant aid will be £10,400- 2009/10.

4.4 Treasure Tots Finances/Accounts

The Clerk gave an overview of the T/T finances, in terms of turnover and payroll, the employment of permanent staff had exceeded 2 years. (CHPC responsibility if closed) At this time T/T had a cash surplus but Clerk was keeping as working capital to allow for the lean months ahead when less child attendance was predicted. It was important to keep the grant in place for payroll support past considered at £2000 per term if the members continue with the facility. All possible claims were being made for grants and the lunch club + walking bus earns good revenue whilst important for working parents plus giving staff extra hours overtime. We have control on staff payroll with just 4 permanent part-time and up to 6 bank staff employed on a casual flexible work basis. Members had past seen the balance sheet for 2007-8 and he was satisfied it was properly managed. An issue to be resolved is the pay of the permanent staff must be reviewed in January 2009 as no pay rises had taken place in 4 years, the catch up was about 5-6%. If left could get into double figures-an item for the January agenda. We have very good staff and we want to keep them. Charity status needs to be sought in the new year- might bring extra benefits-we have asked for application forms.

4.5 Staff Contracts including Treasure Tots

Noted- Clerk to deal with during 2009-10 year

4.6 To consider Audit Review-BDO Stoy-Hayward

The Clerk informed members of change of auditor this time away from Lubbock Fine. The 2007-8 Audit is now complete and signed off. Notices are to be put out expiring on 19th December notifying the parish council accounts may be now inspected by the public. Remittance fee (standard) was agreed by members and payment for £646.25 The Auditors notes are accepted and members have authorised the recommendations and notices from to be dealt with by the Clerk and be put into action.

4.7 Lease to CHPC-High Street Recreation area and new funding

Members debated this in the full council business, agreeing to propose new lease fees to the club. Cllr Rump was keen to see more of an emphasis on the lease matching near to the DV figure but might include dropping the insurance contribution as a relief to the increased sum. The Chair and members thought this a sound idea and agreed

that Cllr Rump should "float it" to the club executive at the next CHFC management meeting. The Clerk is awaiting their word changes to the lease document. Previously the Clerk had been asked about the effect of the Rugby Club departure on the lease value. He said that in contacting the DV office the sum of £1000 should be taken off. This was a telephone enquiry and Cllr Brazier said he would much prefer to see this in writing and permanently on record. The Clerk to obtain the facts in writing from DV.

4.8 Financial & Legal implications for the Parish Council.

Previously dealt with, no further questions or debate other than Cllr Brazier wishing to know the Clerks prediction for cash reserves year end, the Clerk expected as £60k. There was some VAT to apply for and petty cash was owed to the Clerk for past years that the auditor had double checked this is a correct validation, also as noted on the balance sheet-2007-8.

Members Questions

There were no questions from members.

The Clerk has one question, did the council wish to participate in the 2009/10 council tax information leaflet that accompanied each demand in April. Some other parishes do such as St Stephens and Harpenden making in more of an information news sheet which Chronicle already does for CH. The cost is about £500/600 plus origination and SCADC take care of the distribution and postage. Cllr Brazier said this was not fully justified when you take into account we have our own publication four times a year. The Clerk added that by the time you calculated in the additional admin time it will be nearer £1000 so with our own Chronicle Publication it was duplicity. Agreed to the decision not participate this time. The Clerk will advise the officer at SCADC.

The Chair thanked the members for attending adding that he felt that the council had looked at the issues on this agenda positively and fairly we had arrived at a precept that was affordable whilst keeping our services supported. Members had carefully examined the costs presented to them and taken the right action. The Clerk added that he was sure he could deliver the council requirements within the precept & additional income from other known sources. It was a year, he said, in which to look far more closely at getting hold of any external grants for projects rather than use our reserves. It was important to not let these reserves go any lower at this particular time.

Cllr Brazier wished everyone a merry Christmas and happy new year,

The meeting closed at 10.04pm

John Dean
Clerk to the Council
12th December 2008

Members should note that Part II minutes and business are blue paper and should not be discussed outside council unless agreed by all members. Note Standing Orders & issues within The Freedom of Information Act 2005.

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