

COLESHILL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 14th December 2015 at 8 pm, in the Village Hall, Barracks Hill, Coleshill

- Parish Councillors: Terence Prideaux (TPx) Chairman Carol Hallchurch (CH)
Elaine West (EW) Lynn Woodgate (LW)
Mary Pollock (MP)
- Parish Clerk: Lynda Jackson (LJ)
- Chiltern District Council: Councillor Julie Burton (JB)
- Members of Public: 5

1. Apologies for Absence : None

2. Declaration of Interest: None

3. Dispensations: Signed Dispensations were received from all 5 Parish Councillors for setting the precept and approved.

4. Minutes of previous meetings: It was moved by TPx and resolved unanimously that the minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 19th October 2015 be signed as a true record of the meeting along with Appendix 1. Receipts and Payments.

5. Matters Arising: TPx gave an update on previous items that needed to be pursued.

- Sparkx electrical completed the replacement of the power cable for the Christmas lights and the lights were switched on for the festive period.
- Mark Shaw, Cabinet member for Highways, visited the village on November 12th to look at the road conditions raised in emails sent by CPC & JB. A summary of the visit was circulated to all Councillors by TPx. TPx asked that a diary note be made for 12th May to review what progress has been made.
- The overhanging hedges on Tower Road, raised as a concern by residents, would appear to have had a further cut. A letter had been sent to the resident and also reported to BCC.
- The proposed Village Clean-up day which will be linked to the national `Clean for the Queen` event was put into the Village newsletter and has resulted in one volunteer coming forward to co-ordinate the event. The event will be discussed in more detail at the January parish council meeting.
- The gully programme due to 3rd December appeared to have been delayed, Cllr. JB advised a vehicle was seen in the village today. Councillors were advised that the current flooding opposite Findlay Lodge had been reported and the `Super sucker` booked to clear out the lines and drain. Due to cost restraints the verge would be restored to pre-flooding condition in the new financial year.
- The traffic issues in the area around Dew Pond have been raised with Thames Valley police, CDC, BCC

8:12 pm Meeting Closed.

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DEMOCRATIC PERIOD

Tony Barber – regarding the triangle at Hill Meadow. Tony advised that he had witnessed the white line lorry had driven over the verge causing damage. A resident had also advised that the refuse vehicle regularly drives over the verge, due to the limited space allowed due to parked cars, at Hill Meadow.

Tony Barber - regarding the flooding opposite Findlay Lodge. Tony advised the meeting that flooding has been a problem for a number of years and that a more permanent solution is required.

Tony Barber- regarding refuse collection. Tony asked if there was a change to collection day in the New Year. He was advised that there wasn't but that an email had been sent via the village email system advising that household waste was being taken for recycling and could take longer which may result in delays to collections. Cllr. JB also advised that operatives would be following the rules on collection more thoroughly in future and would not collect any material that was not in the correct receptacle.

Chris Wege- regarding the oak trees in the churchyard that, on inspection, were causing concern. Chris assured the Council that works were underway.

8.20 pm Meeting Re-opened.

6. Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC)/Chiltern District Council (CDC):

There had been no communication from BCC.

- i) Devolution of services-tranche 2-**TPx advised that maps are now available on the BCC devolution website, however, the traffic triangles are not shown and BCC have been made aware. TPx raised the issue of the recent press release from BCC that advised of cuts to services. MP felt that in the long term CPC would have to take on devolved services and that it would be better to take the responsibility now as we might never get full clarification of our queries. TPx explained that the contract could leave CPC liable and lead to legal action against CPC. An offer had been made by a lawyer to take Councillors through the finer points of the contract. EW explained that although she hadn't read the contract her position had not changed and that she did not believe that BCC were giving a high enough budget to fulfil the duties required. CH agreed with EW. EW went on to explain that it was too much for a small council and that a compromise could be to join with another parish like Winchmore Hill if CPC were to go ahead. TPx suggested that a decision should be made when the precept is set in January.
- ii) Town & Parish Council event-** CH gave an overview of an event, hosted by BCC, for further devolution of services to Town & Parish councils. The whole event was an information gathering and marketing exercise by BCC to obtain ideas of what services Parish Councils could take on. A number of fellow attendees along with CH felt that Parish councils would not get the necessary support.
- iii) Freeze in Non-Essential services-**TPX explained that the traffic calming measures that were going to be funded this financial year have been dropped by BCC as the work had not already started and they had to make cut backs in this year's budget for non-essential services. They had confirmed though that the completion of the triangle would still go ahead. TPx had made enquiries with Thames Valley Police to use speed tubes to ascertain whether there is an issue with speeding in the Village. The tubes would be left down for 10 days and cost £610. MP felt it was very important to have accurate information. Council approved the cost for speed tubes.
- iv) Magpie Lane repairs –** TPx advised a number of potholes had been repaired on Magpie Lane, the more serious ones having been reported by CPC.
- v) Pennfest letter from CDC-** A response to the letter sent by CPC after the Pennfest was noted.

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vi) **CDC-** JB advised she had attended a presentation of the Local Plan which takes into account the situation now and up to 2036. CDC are now undertaking option testing to prove to neighbouring districts that CDC cannot provide the number of dwellings required. Between 18th January and 11th March there will be an Options and Issues Consultation. JB advised that at present it is possible that CDC will have to ask Aylesbury Vale to help fulfil the requirement. The consultation does not involve any land in Coleshill. JB explained that CDC have to show due diligence.

7. Chairman's Report: Already covered in Matters Arising.

8. Clerks Report: Nothing to report.

9. The Village:

- **Jack Adams Field** – TPx advised that a new replacement gate had been placed at the entrance to the field after vandalism. TPx expressed his thanks to Tony Barber & Jack Haubner in this matter. As the insurance excess is £250 no claim could be made for the gate as it was under that amount.
- **Annual Play inspection work required-** LW explained that in the past items listed as low or very low risk had been ignored but that the insurers had advised that if an accident occurred relating to these items then CPC would not be covered. LW discussed each item in turn and listened to feedback from Councillors and then suggested that she circulate a draft list of the requirements so that a decision could be made on what could be done by volunteers and what would need funding. EW asked how much a new gate would cost and could a quote be obtained before the next meeting. TPx advised he had a list of organisations who CPC could approach for funding for a new play area and asked that the Clerk draft a letter to each.

10. Calendar of Events:

i) Monthly Play inspection return – The November & December routine play inspections had been completed with one issue that the surface under the swings had been reported as slippery. A quote had been obtained for the area to be applied with moss-killer.

ii) Mushroom tree- Chris Wege advised the Council that the tree gets pruned every year and that it had been done for this year. EW explained the reason for it being on calendar of events is that the invoices are not always forthcoming.

11. Finance:

i) Bank balances and reconciliation as at 30th November 2015– EW asked the meeting if there were any questions relating to the information that had been circulated prior to the meeting. Council were satisfied with the information provided. (See Appendix 1.)

ii) Budget discussion and estimate of next year's expenditure– TPx explained that this year 2015/16 our projected expenditure throws up a deficit of £3143, this includes the £2300 which has been set aside for the completion of the triangle, so the actual deficit is around £800.

Projected income for 2016/17 is little changed at £9545. Projected expenditure is £13641. EW had prior to the meeting circulated the Budget forecast document which as she explained included desired expenditure and required expenditure. TPx explained that the desired expenditure items had been put forward by Councillors which included

- Tidying up the village
- Improving the playground
- Covering the shortfall in BCC services

TPx advised that Council have to set a precept by the next meeting and gave examples of what different percentage increases would mean to a band G household:

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1% an extra 40p, 10% an extra £4.

To fulfil the forecast an extra 36% would cover the shortfall. MP advised that 36% sounds a lot but in money terms is not much. EW advised that 36% would be too much. CH advised that the Council needed more volunteers, should control costs and increase the precept. TPx felt that CPC needed to be realistic about volunteers coming forward. CH suggested that an appeal should be made to the Village for volunteers.

EW advised just because something is in the budget it did not mean it had to be spent, at present £1300 has been set aside for grass-cutting as CPC could not rely on volunteers. Councillors went on to suggest items that could be cancelled and/or reduced from the budget. EW agreed to re-issue the budget once these suggestions had been applied but asked for any further suggestions before Christmas.

iii) Finance report: EW discussed the items in the report that had been circulated prior to the meeting. EW advised Council that HASE, the payroll provider, did not have much knowledge on the new pension rules and asked for permission to look at alternatives. This was agreed unanimously. Councillors also approved EW to send to the Internal Auditor information requested.

iv) Letter to Village Hall committee re. Rent- The previously circulated draft letter was approved unanimously and would be sent immediately.

12. Items for Payment – The following payments numbered 47-51 for November were ratified and payments 52 – 56 for December were approved for payment:

No:	Description	Payee	Power	(£)
47	Clerk's wages Oct(+ Alws)	L Jackson	LGA 1972 S112	£272.33
48	PAYE Nov	HMRC	LGA 1972 S112	£63.80
49	Clearing Pond	Chiltern Rangers	OSA 1906 s10/s14 & Commons Act 1899	£300.00
50	New gate JA Field	Tony Barber	LGA (misc. prov) 1976 S19	£228.25
51	Common Mgt Committee	Vale Training Services	OSA 1906 s10/s14 & Commons Act 1899	£264.00
52	Clerk's wages Nov(+ Alws)	L Jackson	LGA 1972 S112	£372.98
53	Phone top up – Oct & Nov	L Jackson	LGA 1972 S111	£20.00
54	Stamps	E West	LGA 1972 S111	£6.48
55	Village grass-cutting	R Amarasinghe	various	£104.00
56	Paint for new gate	Graham Pyle	LGA (misc.	£46.80
	Total			£1678.64

13. Planning

Planning applications for consideration:

- **CH/2015/2159/FA:** Stock Place, Village Rd, Coleshill No objection
- **CH/2015/2156/FA:** Stock Place, Village Rd, Coleshill No objection

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- The council Notes that this is a grade 2 listed building and is satisfied with the report from KDK Archaeology and the advice and guidance from CDC's Conservation officer, Catherine Murray.
- **CH/2015/1945/FA:** Stock Grove, Barrack Hill, Coleshill No objection
- **CH/2015/2161/FA:** Woodmist, Meadowcot Lane, Coleshill Objection to the application for the following reasons:
- The site is near the boundary of the conservation area of Coleshill and in the Greenbelt. Although the Council are agreed that certain development would be deemed acceptable in this area by CDC, the scale of this proposal far outweighs the original size of the dwelling and is contrary to the rules set out in Policy GB2 and GB13 of the adopted Chiltern District Local Plan 1997. The first floor and roof elevations, extensive car port, gym and two storey front extension would materially increase the bulk and massing of the building and have a substantial detrimental effect on the view of openness of Green Belt for neighbours in Manor way. To preserve and respect the setting of a 'rural' lane, if permission is granted the Council would like to request that a condition is made to preserve the boundary hedging and shrubs around the property and that access by builders should be restricted, within reason, to enable neighbours access and to prevent damage to the lane and hedgerow.

CDC Decisions and updates – CH will update the website with the latest updates

CDC Planning training- CH gave an overview of a Planning training event that she attended in November. CH informed the meeting that although informative she would have preferred a more in depth session. Cllr. JB agreed to give feedback to CDC Planning.

14. Meetings – TPx had attended a meeting in October on the Emerging Local Plan which had been covered in item 6 vi)

15. Councillors` Reports -

Open Spaces – MP advised that the tree reported had still not been removed. LJ to follow-up.

Website - Nothing to report.

Cricket Club- TPx advised that the rent should be kept current and would like CPC to get agreement for an increase. CH suggested they could make an ex.gratia payment in good years.

Tennis Club - Nothing to report.

Village Hall – Nothing to report.

School - Nothing to report.

Play Area - Nothing to report.

Newsletter - Nothing to report

- o 09:43 pm. Meeting Closed.

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○ Signed Date