

COLESHILL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

of the meeting held on Monday 17th November 2014, in the Village Hall, Coleshill

Present

Parish Councillors: Terence Prideaux (TPx) Chairman Mary Pollock (MP)
Carol Hallchurch (CH) Dick Ware (DW)
Dave McGhee (DM) Lynn Woodgate (LW)

Parish Clerk: Linda Collison (LC)

District Councillor Graham Harris (GH)

Members of Public: 3

Open Forum/Meeting: None

1. Apologies for Absence :

Apologies were received prior to the meeting from Parish Councillor West (EW) and County Councillor Tim Butcher.

2. Declaration of Interest:

DW declared an interest in planning application CH/2014/1747/FA, agenda item 11¹.

3. Minutes of previous meetings:

It was moved by TPx and resolved unanimously that the minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 20th October 2014 be signed as a true record of the meeting.

4. Chiltern District Council (CDC):

GH reported that:

- **Budgeting Exercise for 2015-16**

GH reported that the budgeting exercise for calculating the 2015-16 (District) Council Tax has begun. CDC is assuming that the Government Grant will be cut again this year and that the District will need to be totally self-funding in 5 years. However financial savings are already being seen with the Joint Committees (with other District Councils) and joint reviews.

GH confirmed that the district council tax was capped at 1.9% per year – no such capping exists at a Parish level.

- **Funding for Play Area**

GH explained that the CDC Community grant process next opens for applications in April 2015, adding that Coleshill Play area would be a good fit for this type of grant.

TPx suggested that this should be considered as a source of funding for improving the Play Area.

- **Delivery Development Plan Document (DDPD).**

GH reported that on Wednesday 12th November 2014 the DDPD was suspended for six months. The government-appointed independent Planning Inspector has asked the Council to provide more evidence on housing need and on the delivery of housing sites.

¹ Note: Interest declared by DW, however no decision was to be made in meeting regarding application CH/2014/1747/FA – update only.

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If this results in any significant changes to the DDPD the Council will be consulting on these. The Council is now awaiting further clarification from the inspector and expects to receive this in the next couple of weeks

More information is available on the web-site: <http://www.chiltern.gov.uk/DPD/Exam>.

5. Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC):

- **County Councillor's Report.**

None

- **Barrack Hill triangle**

TPx reported that quotes for the work are being sought. To follow up with Councillor Butcher.

6. BCC Devolution of Services

It was noted that the BCC Devolution Briefing Event originally set for Wednesday 15th October 2014, had been further postponed and is now proposed for Thursday 4th December 2014 at The Green Park Centre 4-6:30pm. However this meeting is primarily for those Parish and Town Councils who had indicated that they would adopt the devolved services, but all Parish and Town Councils are welcome.

7. The Village

- **Speeding cars**

TPx reported that he continues to liaise with the local police force regarding speeding in the village but has so far been unable to obtain costs for the different options:

- **Speed indicator device.** This only works in a 30 mph zone. The police record the registration details of any offending vehicles and write to them.
- **A Community Speedwatch device** –purchased and operated by the village/residents. Enables the residents (no police needed) to help tackle speeding in their villages.
- **Flashing signs** that are attached to road furniture. These display when vehicles exceed the speed limit.

TPx said that he would write a piece about speeding in the village, for the Village Newsletter. Action TPx.

TPx reported that proposals for the 2015/16 transportation schemes in Coleshill need to be submitted by 30th November 2014. This would include items such as white lines, road calming measures and street furniture. Action to complete form and return before 28th November.

- **The War Memorial**

TPx reported that the new plants and grass around the memorial look very nice, adding that he had asked Howard Pool, the Church Warden if he could arrange for the chain to be fixed back to the wall.²

No update from the War Memorial Trust regarding the grant.³

² Mr Pool has since repointed the brickwork and re-attached the chain.

³ LC subsequently learned that decision regarding grant would not be known until end of December – 7 week turn-around.

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- **Common and Pond**

Willow Pollarding - TPx reported that Amersham Depot had provided a quote of £1,380 plus VAT for pollarding the two large willows at the pond.

In accordance with the financial regulations, two further quotes are needed. DW suggested Ridgeway Woodlands. Action LC to contact. TPx offered to contact David Hall. Action TPx⁴. CH offered to identify another possible company. Action CH.

Concern was raised that this would consume a large proportion of the annual precept (£8,000). TPx explained that while bank balance looks reasonably healthy, this is due to the need for reserves to be kept. However, DW pointed out that there is a £2,000 maintenance reserve which is available for items such as pollarding the willows. TPx reminded members that the Parish Council should be wary of taking responsibility for all village problems.

DM suggested that as CDC had a responsibility towards the Common and Pond, they should be asked to contribute more towards its maintenance and preservation.

GH agreed to take this matter to the CDC meeting next week (w/c 24th November 2014) requesting more funding for the Common and Pond, and report back.

The Pond - *Mr G Thorne was invited to address the Council*

Mr Thorne explained that he has spoken with several pond experts and was now of the opinion that rather than liming the pond to improve the quality of the water, it would be better to remove the fish (mainly carp) as the first step and then to plant new good-quality vegetation. Adding it will cost approximately £700-£800 to remove the carp.

TPx suggested setting up a working party under Mr Thorne's leadership, Mr Thorne confirmed he was not opposed to this and would review the suggested Terms of References provided by LC. It was thought that involvement of the Parish Council would give a greater weight to the Working Party decisions.

Action: LC to circulate Terms of Reference to members and add to next meeting's agenda.

- **Pot Holes**

MP reported that:

- Mike Raven, Local Area Technician (LAT) had advised that work in the village scheduled for 3 weeks ago but was delayed but that the following work would take place this week:
 - Monday 17th November (today) they will be patching 14sqm at the junction of Windmill Hill and Magpie Lane with 3 way traffic lights in operation. MP added that this work had not taken place.
 - Tuesday 18th November they will be patching 32sqm outside The Rosary on Tower Road with give & take signs.⁵
- Mr Raven had also explained that although roads in Coleshill are inspected regularly, any pot holes we consider dangerous should be reported.

⁴ TPx has since learnt that David Hall does not undertake tree work.

⁵ Confirmed this work did take place as planned on the 18th November 2014 – tbc-MP

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- MP had reported the whole of Village Road and Barrack Hill as needing repair due to pot holes (ref 481882). Mr Raven had confirmed that these should be inspected (by a LAT) within 10 days. Action MP to follow-up.

CH explained that she had photographs of a number of pot holes in the village that need repairing. Action CH to pass to LC for reporting to BCC.

Members raised particular concern regarding the condition of **New Road** which they agreed was now unsafe for vehicular usage, its condition being aggravated by the new coaches being used for the school children. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to BCC Highways as soon as possible requesting that the condition of the road is addressed as a priority. This should include reference to the new larger school coaches in use. Action LC.

8. Calendar of Events

- **Commons Grant**

Chris Wege confirmed he had submitted his budget application to CDC.

- **Items for next year's Budget.**

The following items were put forward as possible 2015-15 budget items:

- Computer/printer for Clerk
- Pond
- The Common
- Speed devices
- Hedge Cutting
- Play Area
- Litter Collection
- White Lines
- 'Non-performance of BCC' reserve.

Members were asked to forward any other items they would like including in the 2015-16 budget to EW before the next meeting.

Action all: to provide EW with any 2015-16 budget items prior to the next meeting.

9. Finance

- **Accounts as at 31st October 2014**

TPx presented the 2014-15 Accounts and bank reconciliation as at 31st October 2014.

- Cashbook Balance at 1st April 2014 = £ 13,981.23
- Receipts 1st Apr – 31st October 2014 = £ 8,764.53
- Spend 1st Apr – 31st October 2014 = £ 5,555.76
- Cashbook Balance at 31st October 2014 = £ 17,190.00

TPx presented the Bank reconciliation as at 31st October 2014

- Bank balance = £17,454.79
- Less unrepresented cheques = £ 264.79
- Cashbook Balance = £ 17,190.00

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10. Payments

- **Dog bin emptying.**

LC confirmed there had been no reply from Mr Snudden. Action LC to chase.

- **Christmas Lights.**

DM advised that two quotes had been received for the Christmas lights. Mr G Alder quoted £550 for immediate work required and an additional £290 for recommendations. Mr M Oram had advised that the lights were safe and quoted £550 (+VAT) for addressing the low hanging cables so that they meet regulations.

Concern was raised that there may not be sufficient funds in this year's budget to cover this cost. It was agreed that LC should obtain a new (lower) quote or defer the work to spring 2015.

- **The following payments were approved for payment:**

Description	Payee	Power	(£)
Clerk's wages Oct (+ Alws)	L Collison	LGA 1972 S112	£334.83
PAYE	HMRC	LGA 1972 S112	
Clerks Phone	L Collison	LGA 1972 S111	£12.34
Stationery and Postage	E West	LGA 1972 S111	£10.79
Prune Mushroom tree	M Connolley	OSA 1906 S14	£70.00
Remembrance Wreath	T Prideaux	S137	£18.00
SLCC Advert (for Clerk)	SLCC	LGA 1972 S111	£60.00
Cleaning War Memorial	Creative Memorials	War Mem's (LAP) Act 923 s1	£1643.00
Play Area Repairs	ATC Depot	LGA (Misc Prov) 1976 s19	£269.64

11. Planning

- **Planning applications for consideration:**

- **CH/2014/1747/FA Wheat sheaf Cottage, Village Road**

Construction of vehicular access and associated hardstanding

- CH advised that a response on no objections to this application had been submitted for this application.

- **CH/2014/1775/FA 3 Church Cottages, Barrack Hill,**

Conversion of two flats into two dwellings incorporating single storey rear/side extension, single storey extension, rebuilding of front external wall, conversion of garage into habitable accommodation, first floor balcony extension, fenestration alterations, associated landscaping and hardstanding (amendment to planning permission CH/2014/0778/FA)

- CPC recommendation: no objections for this application.

- **CH/2014/1850/FA Land at Cherry Tree Farm New Road**

Erection of replacement Barn

- CPC recommendation: no objections for this application.

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- **CDC Decisions:**

- **CH/2014/1617/FA Cherry Tree Farm** New Road
Erection of a replacement dwelling, detached garage
 - CDC Decision : Conditional Permission

12. Meetings/Training

- DW to attend the “Commons and the Law” training on 27th November 2014
- Amersham LAF Priorities Workshop Tuesday 9 December 2014 from 7-9pm
- BCC Devolution Briefing Event - now Thursday 4th December 2014 at The Green Park Centre 4-6:30pm.

13. Councillors' Reports

- **Open Spaces.**

DM reported that he had joined two working parties to tidy up parts of the Common.

- **Cricket Club.**

Nothing to report.

- **Tennis.**

TPx had attended the Tennis Club AGM which reported that the club now has 105 members and that the teams were doing well.

- **Village Hall.**

Nothing to report.

- **School.**

Nothing to report.

- **Play Area.**

LW reported that the work on the play area specified in the annual inspection had been completed.

A receipt for £75 covering costs had been submitted from Mr Ian Dover for mowing the grass at the play area in 2014. For approval at the next meeting (December). Members thanked Mr Dover for keeping the grass cut through-out the year.

It was agreed that LC should obtain a quote for the finger-sign and post, to direct people to the play area. Action LC.

- **Newsletter.**

DW reported that CDC are not currently able to take on outside work, which includes the Newsletter. Alternative – commercial – quotes are being sought, which will almost inevitably be higher. There may therefore be budgetary implications for 2015.

- **Website.**

DM reported that a new web-master was needed to help manage the web-site.

10:00 pm Meeting Closed.

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DEMOCRATIC PERIOD

- It was suggested that if white lines were painted on the road that traffic may go faster.
 - Members were asked how the fish were removed from the pond, and whether the Koi Carp Association could help.
 - It was suggested that the Clerk's position could be advertised by BALC.
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Signed Date