

# **COLESHILL PARISH COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES of the MEETING of COLESHILL PARISH COUNCIL held on THURSDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2012 at 8.00pm in the VILLAGE HALL, COLESHILL**

Present at the meeting were the Chairman Cllr Colin Lambert, Cllr Lynn Woodgate, Cllr Dick Ware, Cllr Terence Prideaux, Cllr David Smith, Cllr David McGhee.

There were 6 members of the public present.

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

The Chairman had received apologies from the Clerk Susan Smith.

### **2. Minutes of the last Meeting**

Minutes from the Extraordinary Meeting of 31<sup>st</sup> October 2011 were signed.

Minutes from 15<sup>th</sup> September 2011 and 10<sup>th</sup> November 2011 were signed.

### **3. Democratic Period**

Meeting closed for the democratic period.

### **4. Meeting Re-opens**

Meeting re-opened at 8.16pm.

### **5. Declarations of Interest**

None received.

### **6. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting**

Chairman: No further progress had been made on documenting roles within the CPC.

Action: Cllr Lambert

Cllr Ware: Web links to other village's Village Plans had been circulated to other Cllrs to gauge their response. Item to be scheduled for the next meeting headed Village Plan.

Action: All Cllrs

Cllr McGhee: Response received from CDC concerning Solon appears very dismissive to CPC and they appear to by-pass the views of CPC.

CDC: Cllr G Harris informed the meeting that CDC Cllr A Hardie who represents Penn & Coleshill will be joining the planning committee at CDC soon.

Chairman is to forward all Solon and Wallers Oak correspondence to CDC Councillors.

Action Cllr Lambert

Clerk: Paul Evans has been asked to re-new the bark at the play-area.

Chairman: Filing Cabinets for the CPC cupboard in the VH have been purchased and are now in place.

Chairman: A response to Ms R Pearce's letter has been sent.

Clerk: No further estimates received for War Memorial.

Cllr Ware: Oaktree House and subsequent information on zoning, asked whether his request had been sent to CDC? This had been emailed to the Chairman and Clerk in November.

Action: Clerk, Cllr Lambert

Cllr Prideaux: Has precept request for 2012/2013 been submitted to CDC.

Action: Clerk

## **7. Planning**

Windmill Farm x 2	CDC approved
Moorey x 3	CDC approved
Hunters Moon	CPC no obj

## **8. Finance**

Cllr Smith issued copies of up to-date bank statements showing a healthy balance, making an allowance for cheques paid but not showing and historical last quarter spending balance end of

year should be approx £13,000.00p although there are a number of items to be decided on.

Cllr Ware queried if the CPC were following the adopted Financial Regulations dated 11<sup>th</sup> Jan 2006. The Chairman commented that he had sought clarification from BALC and had decided to continue with the present arrangements until the AGM, where any review of the Financial Regulations could be considered.

Cllr Ware did not demur but said that, while there might be good reasons for departing from the Regulations we had adopted, these should be properly discussed before we departed from them and the Regulations then changed if necessary to reflect whatever procedures we thought proper.

### **9. Tennis Club**

Cllr Prideaux reported that completing the extension of lease is dragging on because the CPC's original solicitor dealing with this case has resigned and we are waiting for his replacement to start and pick up the case. Hopefully this should be concluded soon.

The Deed of Gift concerning Jack Adams Field; after a lot of investigation CPC have located the original, which is being stored at Francis Howe Solicitors. A more legible copy has been obtained.

### **10. Correspondence**

The Chairman informed the meeting of a new online planning information portal that the Clerk had investigated. Further details in the Clerks Report.

### **11. Councillors Reports**

#### **Cllr Smith**

Finance: This had already been given.

#### **Cllr Woodgate**

School: Nothing new to report.

Play Area: Keeping an eye out for broken glass and general up-keep.

#### **Cllr McGhee**

Roads: The poor condition of Coleshill roads suggests that the CPC make a request to CDC/BCC to take action. The top of New Road is dangerous because the cluster of surface holes which

make braking (especially when wet) on the bend difficult without slipping. The Chairman commented on an unintended consequence of improving the condition of the roads could be an increase in speed through the village.

BCC: Cllr D Schofield commented that he had raised the issue of New Road with 'Highways' on a regular basis and would raise it again.

Church footpath: I have received a complaint about the very uneven surface of the public footpath which goes past the Church and exits at the new grit bin.

Grazing land: A field adjacent to Tower Road has acquired a manicured look due to repeated mowing instead of animal grazing. This may be an issue if the land is designated as agricultural land.

Pond rubbish: The plant rubbish located next to the new bench needs to be removed during this spring.

Tower Road sign: This road sign has been up-rooted (many months ago) needs to be re-instated. I understand that CDC/BCC are aware of this and so far have chosen to take no action.

### **Cllr Prideaux**

Tennis: The club held its AGM on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2011. The club has 103 members (76 adults / 27 children).

The club is in a healthy financial position. Although income was down in the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011 principally because of a drop in member numbers, the club had a surplus of close to £3,000 and has around £17,000 in the bank. One of the courts may soon need resurfacing although there remain concerns that there may be problems with either tree roots or water ingress from the cricket field.

Lease: The slow progress of the lease extension is covered elsewhere.

Cricket: The club held its AGM on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2011. The club is solvent but faces considerable expenditure on mowing/rolling equipment. It was noted that income from Vice Presidents – a traditional source of income, usually from village donors – to the club saw a noticeable fall from 2009/10 to 2010/11 from £1,570 to £1,052.

The club expects to again hold a pre-season drinks reception for the village.

A positive feature has been the closer links with Chesham C.C. – one of the largest clubs in the South East involving use of, and exchange of, players and facilities. A tentative offer was made

to attend Chesham's coaching sessions and Chesham requested the use of the pitch for training using the temporary nets & may use the pitch for their Sunday matches. The second XI only completed the season's matches with the help of Chesham and Gerrards Cross players.

### **Cllr Ware**

Village Hall: Nothing new to report.

Newsletter: Copy deadline for next issue is 25<sup>th</sup> February 2012 and circulation two weeks thereafter.

A suggestion has been raised that a colour cover might add variety, perhaps once a year for the Christmas edition. This would cost an additional £25-£30 and the subject can be discussed again later in the year.

Printing costs for the last 4 issues total £466. Donations from the villagers for Christmas greeting raised £404. There will be a small additional cost for postage and stationery to be itemised separately. Details would be forwarded to the Clerk.

Action: Cllr Ware

Responsibility for both the newsletter and website had been raised during the Democratic period and it was agreed to give some thought to possible options regarding the Website for discussion at the next meeting.

Action: All Cllrs

As part of his report, Cllr Ware noted that he had been phoned by 2 villagers about the erection of a fence around a field owned by Oak Tree Cottage. They were concerned that access to the public footpath might be restricted in some way and also that the field's current openness would be constrained in future. After some discussion, Cllr McGhee agreed to look into the situation."

### **12. Clerks Report**

The Clerk sent apologies for not attending the meeting due to illness. The Chairman read out her report as follows:

"Play Area: I have asked Paul Evans to give the play area a winter tidy-up and clear some broken glass away. He advises that his costs have increased and the monthly invoice will be £ 45.00 plus any additional material costs.

BCC were contacted after the last meeting with the view to have the white lines on New Road,

Magpie Lane re-instated. In addition I also asked about moving the grit bin by Stony Path.

I contacted three companies for estimates on cleaning the War Memorial. This was put on hold whilst the owner of the War Memorial and its land was determined. After contacting Chris Wege and the All Saints Rector Tim Harper, it is believed to be owned by All Saints Church and therefore any cleaning would be the responsibility of the Church. Could the Council decide on how to proceed?

Action: All Cllrs

NALC have recommended an on-line training course in Planning at [www.ntselearning.co.uk](http://www.ntselearning.co.uk). I have registered for an account and will distribute login details separately. I hope Councillors will take advantage of it. Additional hard copies of the 'Planning Explained' booklet have been requested.

Do the CPC intend to enter the Best Kept Village Competition this year?

Action: All Cllrs

The ROSPA Inspection of the Play Area is due to be carried out during May/June. I will keep the CPC informed.

Sarah Parker would like to thank the CPC for agreeing to fund the cost of the Village Hall for a Sustainable Energy meeting. She has also learned that the village may be able to get a grant. As she can not attend the meeting tonight, she has forwarded a short statement to be read out".

*She wrote as follows:*

*I (Sarah) am most willing to formulate an energy efficiency project proposal appropriate for Coleshill (to include the community meeting already planned) for the Parish Council's approval and to do the online grant application. Obviously the Council will have to approve application ahead of next week's deadline, so prompt response is vital. The fund was unexpected and so communities have not had much time to respond. The first round of funding closed on 22 December!*

*The fund aims to support projects that will be completed by 31 March 2012 - a sort of kick start to the UK's community energy initiative. My work with the charity Carbon Leapfrog ([www.carbonleapfrog.org](http://www.carbonleapfrog.org)) has meant that I have experience of a wide range of community energy initiatives and can use that experience in formulating a proposal for Coleshill. The normal grant award is around £50,000 so it is a fund well worth making the effort to apply for.*

The Chairman commented that it was unclear what the grant was to be used for and what the CPC were being asked to approve. The Chairman will contact Sarah Parker for further clarification.

Action: Cllr Lambert

### **13. Time and Date of Next Meeting**

Time will be 8.00pm on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2012

### **DEMOCRATIC PERIOD**

Mr I McCallum is concerned about the CPC's response to the latest planning application of his neighbour at Windmill Farm. His concerns are that CPC appear not to have any definite opinion. Chairman stated that the application was within Planning Guidelines and therefore CPC had no objection. We do make observations on a number of Planning Applications, and did so in this case, regarding its permanence and possible re-instatement.

Mrs P Ware raised the issue of accountability of the Village Website and Newsletter and whether this should be formalised. The Chairman agreed and would add the item to next agenda for the next meeting.