

COLESHILL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of meeting held on Thursday 20th September 2012, in the Village Hall

Present - Cllr Richard Ware (DW) (Chairman), Cllr Lynn Woodgate (LW), Cllr David McGhee (DM), Cllr Terence Prideux (TP), Cllr Sarah Parker (SP), Cllr Carol Hallchurch (CH), the Clerk and seven members of the public.

Chairman indicated emergency exits

Apologies for absence - none received

1. To approve Minutes of Meeting held on 2nd August 2012

Subject to two minor alterations, minutes were approved as a true record, and signed.

2. Co-option of new Councillor

There had been no call for an election by Coleshill residents to fill the vacancy on the Council. One resident had previously stated an interest in joining the Parish Council but unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, she was unable to attend the meeting. Councillors agreed to defer the co-option until the next meeting on 8th November.

3. Review of current working practices of the Parish Council

Clerk reported that she had been going through the paperwork and hoped to present a review at the next meeting.

The new Code of Conduct had been approved by CDC and will be presented for adoption at the next meeting. Clerk to circulate to Councillors prior to meeting.

The Chairman asked that wording be included in Standing Orders to allow decisions to be taken between meetings via e-mail correspondence among Councillors.

4. Planning

- DW reported that there were two outstanding applications -- at Cherry Tree Farm and Bowers Farm. The former had been initially refused because CDC thought it was too big. They have now reduced the size. There has been no decision as yet.
- The second at Bowers Farm was a replacement shed for the alpacas. CH said that she had been to have a look and it will be bigger than the existing shed although she felt there was no reason to object.
- DW mentioned Wallers Oak, where CDC was expecting to receive an application soon for a certificate of lawfulness for alleged misuse of agricultural land. We would be given the usual opportunity to comment and CDC would then move on to consider enforcement action against the carport.
- CDC had approved Oak Tree Cottage application.

5. Finance

- Finance reports
Clerk explained the new audit trail regarding payment of invoices. Councillors approved.
- Audit
Mazars had got in touch with several queries. Clerk is dealing.
- Quotation re. Cricket Club gate/posts
TP had received two quotations, the quotation from Ridgeway Woodlands for £690 plus VAT was accepted.
- TP asked for this item to be included. Quote for felling of diseased pine tree behind the pavilion at the tennis club. Two quotes received. Councillors approved quote from Ridgeway Woodlands for £190 + VAT

- Christmas lights replacement
TP had met with one contractor who had initially seemed keen to do the work but then changed his mind as he felt he had no satisfactory or safe means of reaching the height required. TP had then met with another and been shown a large sample of lights. He had told them that, ideally, the tree needed to be seen from Bottrells Lane and was in turn told that the lights could be left in place on the tree permanently. DMCG was concerned that if one light became faulty, it would cause the whole run to cease working. TP assured him this would not be the case according to the contractor. This contractor had also done work for various other councils, including Farnham Common. The Clerk said that the FCPC tree was really magnificent, one of the best ones around. It was agreed that the Clerk find out if the FCPC lights could be turned on at some point in order that Councillors could go and view them. A separate viewing of some of the lights available would also be arranged in a darkened area.
- Hedge cutting around the Jack Adams Field.
TP identified the area in question as being from the corner of Tower Road along to the cricket club gates. Councillors approved retrospectively.

6. **Wayleave from Eastern Electricity**

DW had the document, which Councillors approved for signature by the Clerk and witnessed by Chairman.

7. **Noticeboard in small hall**

DW explained to the meeting that the Clerk was also a signwriter and had taken on the job of updating the Small Hall's honour board of Chairmen and Clerks. Clerk informed that it was a work in progress. TP queried what the cost would be and on Clerk's response that there would be no cost, suggested that an ex-gratia payment of £30 be made. Councillors agreed.

8. **Village Hall Boundary**

DW said there was still confusion concerning the boundary line between the village hall and the neighbouring property, on the left of the hall when facing the entrance. Neighbours on that side wanted to erect a fence and we needed to be sure that it was not encroaching over our boundary. In order to help clarify the situation, SP offered to do a Land Registry check.

9. **Ownership of Plots**

Before progressing with further work on a Community Orchard (see item 11), it would be helpful to know who owned several plots of land in the Village, with a possible view to approaching the owners regarding sale or lease. SP volunteered to search at the Land Registry and liaise with TP (as CPC representative on the Hall's Management Committee) as necessary.

10. **Jubilee Tree**

Chris Wege said that it might be possible to find a site on the common. A mulberry tree rather than an oak was then proposed (which later became two, for pollination reasons) and, after further discussion, TP suggested that they could both go in the southeast corner of the Jack Adams Field. Clerk to investigate sizes and prices.

11. **Community Orchard**

Nothing further to report at this time. No one has as yet come forward to lead the project .

12. **Clearance of substation – progress**

DW told the meeting that the trees are going to be felled on Thursday next week. The substation will be exposed for about twelve months because the ground around it is poisoned and unsuitable for replanting any sooner.

13. **Parish Plan**

SP reported that she had acquired some examples from other parishes and will be going through them more thoroughly with CH, prior to drawing up a questionnaire for villagers.

14. Councillors' Reports

- **Planning** – nothing more to report, mentioned in item 4.
- **Open Spaces** – DMcG reported this Saturday's working party on the Common. All footpaths in good order.
- **Website** – DMcG explained the new legislation requiring website owners to tell users their policy on the use of cookies. He felt that something be put on the website about this, which was agreed (wording used by BCC would be the template). He also said he thought it was more important to use the email list for intra-village communication than the website, as it was more easily accessed.
- **Cricket Club** – TP reported that the First Eleven were unbeaten this season. Also said that there was a water leak and we needed to check the terms of the lease to see whether it is the responsibility of CPC or the Cricket Club to fix this. Also suggested checking the insurance policy to see if there was cover for this.
- **Tennis Club** – nothing to report
- **Village Hall** – nothing to report apart from note in item 9 above.
- **School** – LW told the meeting that the new school had begun with eighteen new children starting in Reception. She said that this term the school is undertaking a whole school art project based on portraits by famous artists such as Leonardo da Vinci, Paul Klee, Klimt and Picasso. They would also be looking at Farms, Farming and Food, which would include a visit to a farm. They are visiting the Albert Hall for a concert, holding a safety week and celebrating Harvest.
- **Play Area** – nothing to report. Everything satisfactory at last visit.
- **Newsletter** – DW said that, although he wrote the CPC entry in the last newsletter and was happy to continue doing so, he wondered if any other Councillor was interested in taking a turn. He thought it might add variety and he would remind others again before deadline for copy (23 November). The Christmas issue would be distributed over the weekend of 10 December.

15. Date of next Meeting – Thursday 8th November 2012

Parishioners' Questions

- Ann Lawrence (AL) asked what part of the cricket field was envisaged as the site for the mulberry trees.
- AL also pointed out the poor condition of the footpath sign at the Springfield corner, which is rusting and very unsightly. She commended, however, the recent resurfacing of New Road.
- Peter Lawrence said he would be very interested to see the Christmas lights. He also asked whether CPC could reclaim VAT. Clerk to investigate registration status.
- Penny Ware (PW) commented on the noticeboard and said she thought it looked very nice. Also mentioned that the sails and cap of the Windmill had been removed for renovation. Mr. Patel said he would allow a few members of the History Group to go and have a look whilst they are on the ground.
- PW also mentioned that a temporary fence might be put round the substation and that Geoffrey Jordan (a former villager) had said he would be keen to donate a cherry tree for the orchard.
- Tony Barber (TB) asked that any Jubilee tree(s) be restricted to the corner of the field and not encroach too far into the remaining grassland.
- TB also pointed out that the surface of the footpath next to the churchyard was very uneven and potentially dangerous in places.
- He also light-heartedly expressed the hope that any new Christmas lights would not be brighter than his.

Chairman closed the meeting at 10.05pm