

COLESHILL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of meeting held on Monday 21st January 2013, in the Village Hall

Present – Cllr. Dick Ware (DW) (Chairman), Cllr Sarah Parker (Vice Chairman) (SP), Cllr. Lynne Woodgate (LW), Cllr. Terence Prideaux (TPx), Cllr. Dave McGhee (DMcG), Cllr. Carol Hallchurch (CH) Cllr Matthew Bell (MB) and the Clerk

In attendance – three members of the public

Chairman indicated emergency exit

Apologies for absence – Cllr Schofield (BCC) Cllr Harris (CDC)

1. To approve Minutes of Meeting held on 10th December
Minutes were approved as a true record, and signed.
2. County Councillor – not present
3. District Councillor – not present
4. Planning -
CH referred to the application for a certificate of lawfulness from Wellside which will extend the existing line of houses at the back and encroach a bit further into the GB.
DW explained that CPC were unable to make comment on the application for Longfield, as all Councillors were conflicted.
In connection with the various Windmill Farm applications for certificates of lawfulness, TPx said he had written to CCB. Since then, DW noted that CDC had imposed an Article 4 Direction, prohibiting any work for a 2 month period and, subsequently, turned down one application completely (full planning permission will be required). Although the other 2 certificates have been granted, it was noted that the Article 4 Direction trumped them.
DW said he had been invited to meet the owners of Windmill Farm so that they can explain what they want to achieve but fixing a time had as yet not been possible.
5. Finance
 - The Clerk presented the finance report, which was approved and cheques signed.
 - CVH booking fee – Councillors approved the booking fee for the year's Council meetings.
 - Precept – Councillors agreed that CPC would be requesting an increase to £8,000 for the coming financial year. A suitable opportunity will be found (perhaps in the Newsletter) to explain the reasons for this.
 - Budget for 2013 – Clerk will be preparing report for Councillors for the next meeting.
 - CMC request for funding chainsaw course – After receiving a letter from Chris Wege which said they would not be using chainsaws in the future and, if they needed to, would use the services of a professional, Councillors agreed to fund any extra cost involved which could not be found from the Management Committee's own funds.
6. Christmas Lights
TPx said that CPC would have to decide whether to take down the lights or leave them up. He said he had obtained a price from L & T of £275 to remove and £375 to put up again each year. Councillors did not feel this was acceptable, especially when compared to the original price of supply and installation. TPx asked the Clerk if the original contractor who used to put up the lights would be willing to do this again; Clerk said he would be.

It was pointed out by DMG that the cable from the Church to the tree had dropped and was dangling down quite low. MB to have a look at the cable and suggest a remedy.

Councillors agreed to leave the lights up.

7. Village Day proposal
Nothing new to report at this time
8. Jubilee Tree Planting
Clerk to arrange delivery of tree for planting asap. Also to liaise with Chris Wege on the precise place to plant.
Clerk had provided photographs of the tree guard and commemorative plaque which had been made for another Parish Council. Members approved; Clerk to order.
It was suggested that the 'official' planting ceremony be held in conjunction with Village Day.
9. Triangle Island problem
DW said he had written to David Schofield on this, but as yet had not had a reply. DMG said that the residents of Barrack Hill he had mentioned this to were grateful for the Parish Council's action.
10. Broadband
DW had been informed by the MD for BT Retail (who said he had taken personal charge of Coleshill) that the next stage of work was planned to start 25th January for approximately five working days.
He also noted that Peter Lawrence was pursuing another tack with the Bucks/Herts funding pot. We might need to apply to this if we were ever to find ourselves with a definitive answer from BT that they will not be spending their own money on us. PL has also written to our MP, who has promised to contact BT's Chairman.
DW said he would continue plugging away.
11. Village Hall Boundary and Ownership of Allotments
No information as yet, Clerk had phoned the previous week to no avail. Will try again.
12. Delegated Budget
Clerk was told by Highways that last year's request re. the triangle will automatically be put forward again this year.
13. New item in standing orders
DW said he had incorporated TPx's additions and will circulate to Members for approval by email.
14. Parish Plan
SP said that she and CH would be working on the questionnaire and hoped to have more news at the next PC meeting.
15. Meetings -
To report on – DW had been to a Liaison meeting (Town and Parish Chairmen with CDC). The first agenda item was the precept. The effect of central government's cut in funding to local authorities means that their tax base decreases and any precepts – even if they remain unchanged in cash terms – will appear as a slightly higher percentage on households' Council Tax bills.

CDC are doing a survey of potential travellers' sites. As there appears to be a shortfall of places in existing sites, they inviting Parish Councils to put forward ideas for possible new sites prior to making proposals themselves. We have not volunteered any.

CDC and HWDC have signed a new joint waste disposal contract with Serco. This will start in early March. There will be new vehicles and new branding. Promotional packs will be sent out some time in early May and new collection dates should be available the following month.

A further improvement to the service is promised in the form of roadside collection of plastic and tins. Green bins will also be available but their collection will be charged for.

To attend – nothing known at this time

16. Councillors' Reports

- Open Spaces – the footpath at the bottom of Barrack Hill – DW asked if the land where a new wall and hedge had appeared was indeed part of the adjoining property or if public land had been encroached on. DMG/PH to make enquiries
- Website – nothing to report
- Cricket Club – TPx said that he had got the new signs but they had not yet been put up. The season, although good in terms of results, had been poor financially owing to the inclement weather. The Club will be looking for sponsorship and will be holding more fund-raising events. The possibility of a small ex-gratia payment was mooted but left pending for the time being.
Water leak – Tony Barber had spoken to Affinity, initially in August. They failed to find a leak, but the water had been turned off for the winter. Had got in touch with Affinity again two to three weeks ago. Estimates to be obtained to identify and repair or renew the pipe. The lease obliges neither the landlord nor the tenant to make the necessary repairs but Councillors felt that both the leak (which costs money and wastes water) and the associated soggy ground were detrimental to the Club's quiet enjoyment of their facilities. Councillors therefore accepted the moral obligation and agreed to pay for the necessary work.
- Tennis Club – nothing to report
- Village Hall – the Friday Playgroup was going extremely well. They have bought their own coffee machine and anticipate extending the group for the summer.
- School – had invited some non-British families to speak to the children.
- Play Area – nothing to report, all well. Clerk had suggested a monthly inspection which would be minuted. This would cover CPC for any future eventualities. Clerk to prepare checklist and she and LW will then construct a formal Risk Assessment. Clerk also explained that the annual Rospa inspection was not adequate as a safety check throughout the year. Also recommended an alternative company for the inspection, which was used by quite a few other parish councils.

Meeting closed at 9.37 pm

DEMOCRATIC PERIOD

Ann H asked where the Jubilee tree was to be planted.

Chris W said the seat just down the path is in a poor state.

Tony B wanted to know the date of the Village Day as the Cricket Club was contemplating its own Village Sports Day. He was told the plan was for 13th July.

Triangle – DMG said the sets should be put on an angle rather than upright.

Broadband – doubtful when it will happen. Asked what people were getting now.

Was concerned about the many instances where properties have either encroached into neighbouring land or changed its use from agricultural to domestic..