

# COLESHILL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of meeting held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2013, in the Village Hall

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**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) and the Clerk

**In attendance** Cllr G. Harris (CDC) and two members of the public

Chairman indicated emergency exit.

Apologies for absence – MB

1. **To approve Minutes of meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2013**

Minutes were approved as a true record, and signed

2. **County Councillor** – not present

3. **District Councillor**

- GH said that CDC had now passed the Council Tax poundage for next year. CDC is increasing its precept by 1.9%. They are trying to build up Council's tax base after the reduction in Central Government funding .
- GH told the meeting that there were new waste contractors – Serco – and collections would be made on a different basis, reflecting need. Main changes will come about at the end of June, including a weekly food collection. More detailed information will be sent out to households towards the end of April. This is a joint contract with Wycombe DC.

4. **Planning**

- DW confirmed that we had put in a formal objection to the rear development at Wellside.
- Also mentioned Bowers Farm; there were some small changes – replacing a porch and an existing extension.
- Windmill Farm – CDC's Planning Committee meeting the previous Thursday had discussed the earlier imposition of an Article 4 Direction (which removed permitted development rights). The owners of the property have engaged a solicitor and threatened to claim compensation. The Direction runs out on 20<sup>th</sup> June if not confirmed before then and officials have promised to bring the matter back to a future meeting of the Planning Committee.
- Wallers Oak. CDC officials have still not agreed that the strip of land in question can be deemed residential rather than agricultural.

5. **Finance**

- Councillors noted the Finance Report
- Budget 2013/14 – TPx suggested deferring the budget decision until the April meeting.
- Internal auditor – DW explained that it is a legal requirement to have an internal auditor, not only to check the figures, but also to ensure that CPC's governance structure is appropriate and that proper practices are being followed. Our previous internal auditor, who had worked on a pro bono basis, had only been asked to do the former and we needed to extend the brief. Clerk recommended Rob Robinson who had been internal auditor at Hedgerley Parish Council for some years and also acted for other Parish Councils.
- Summary of R & P over the past three years – TPx said that he had not yet completed this task but that it would be ready for the next meeting.

6. **Tree Felling concerns**

- Clerk had been contacted by a local resident about trees which had been felled at Cherry Tree Farm. Mrs. McCammon, who attended the meeting, said she had written in September 2011 to CDC voicing her concerns about this property. She said she finally had a substantive reply in November 2012. CH had also phoned Mr. Musgrave, Tree Officer at CDC, who effectively told her that we shouldn't worry as he didn't think there was much danger to the trees in question. Mrs. McCammon had, however, been told that the owners intended to fell the oaks.
- As a general matter, TPx and DMcG agreed to walk round the village identifying any trees that in their opinion might benefit from a TPO. As a matter of more urgency the Clerk would contact CDC immediately to ask them to review the question of the oaks, now that most of the trees surrounding them had been felled and contrary to the view expressed by Mr Musgrave earlier.

7. **Village Day Proposal** – TPx said that the fundraising event had been postponed until 14<sup>th</sup> June.

8. **Jubilee Tree Planting** – tree has been planted, ornamental tree guard with plaque in place. TPx suggested a rabbit-proof tree guard be put in place as a safeguard from the bark being nibbled. Clerk said she would organise that.

9. **Broadband.**

DW said he had deliberately not contacted Warren Buckley again prior to the meeting as the latter had said he would get in touch only when he had anything to report. Nevertheless, Openreach had been working on New Road in recent days, apparently clearing the ducts and putting in new wiring. Given this activity, things were looking hopeful.

10. **Village Hall Boundary**

Councillors had seen the draft letter to Mr Denyer saying that the line of the fence that he proposed to erect did not appear to encroach on Village Hall land. This was approved by all.

11. **Penn Festival** – it was agreed to leave this until next month.

12. **Triangle**

Following the news that the triangle had been refused as part of the Delegated Budget scheme, it was agreed that the Clerk get in touch with TfB to see if there was an alternative source for repair from a safety angle.

13. **Pond**

DW said that he agreed with Chris Wege, who had written to CPC in the subject, that it was important to have a management plan for the village pond. **Councillors were in accord and the Chairman said he would write to Chris expressing the Council's support.** He noted that Chris was already engaged in updating the existing (20 year old) Common Management Plan and will be attending the April meeting.

14. **Meetings**

To report on – none at this time

To attend – none known at this time

15. **Councillors' Reports**

**Open spaces** – DMcG said that the new brushcutter had been used and was very effective. He also noted that the public bench on the footpath down to the Common was in need of renovation.

DW said that there was still a problem of localised flooding near the war memorial and the pond. It was suggested that there might be a blockage under the road as there is a pipe which goes across the road to the garden opposite and empties into the pond there. Clerk to raise this with TfB.

**Website** – DMcG had nothing to report, but did mention that this month's meeting agenda had not been put on the website. DW emphasised to the Clerk that it was important to ensure this happened each month.

**Cricket Club** – TPx said there was nothing of substance to report at the moment, though noted that the club's forthcoming programme was a full one. The water leak in the supply to the pavilion had been repaired.

**Village Hall** – AGM is on 13<sup>th</sup> May

**School** – LW said everything was fine. There had been a fire inspection recently.

**Play Area** – LW said that everything seemed fine, but the goal was in need of a new net. Clerk to arrange.

**Newsletter** – Nothing to report

15. **Date of next meeting – April 15<sup>th</sup> 2013**

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**Democratic Period** – no questions