

COLESHILL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of meeting held on Thursday 16th December 2012, in the Village Hall

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

In attendance – six members of the public

Chairman indicated emergency exits

Apologies for absence – Cllr.Sarah Parker

Chairman told the meeting the sad news of the death of Jonathan Eardley who had died that morning.

1. **To approve Minutes of Meeting held on 8th November 2012**

Minutes were approved as a true record, and signed.

2. **County or District Councillors** – none present

3. **Additional item for inclusion in Standing Orders**

Chairman asked for Councillors' approval to add an item to the existing Standing Orders to allow decisions to be made outside formal meetings and provided a draft text. This would only be for something which was very urgent and could not wait to be discussed in Council. TPx suggested looking at it further to change the wording slightly. He would make proposals to be considered at next meeting.

4. **Planning**

DW detailed decisions from CDC on Bowers Farm and Church Cottages. He also mentioned a new application for 3 Chase Close which had not yet been considered.

DW then went on to discuss Windmill Farm. After a number of previous applications in recent years, some approved and some turned down on appeal, the owners are currently seeking three Certificates of Lawfulness. The first is for a single storey extension on the south side; the second for a two storey extension on the north side; and the third for a detached garage.

The second application involves building a very large extension out from what is currently the front door and which will certainly take up a large part of the existing driveway, thereby

obscuring the view of the listed Windmill. The two extensions together would also virtually double the size of the house. The Planning Inspectorate have turned down previous appeals on grounds of excessive size. DW felt that a very strong letter needed to be written on these applications to point out the illogicality of using a route supposedly designed to allow small-scale development to by-pass previously determined planning policy and will share a draft with others before submission.

5. Finance

- **Finance report**

Report was approved, cheques signed

- **Quote for Jubilee Tree planting**

Besides the original quote from Tendercare for planting the Jubilee Tree, there were three others from local contractors. As it was the cheapest, it was agreed that the quote from Harris Ground Management be accepted (£40). Clerk to liaise with Tendercare and Ben Harris for a suitable planting date early in the New Year.

- **Budget 2013/14**

Clerk to draw up a record of the previous two year's payments in order that Councillors can discuss and then agree a budget for 2013/14

- **Commons Management Committee**

Request for funding brushcutter - it was agreed to provide partial funding for this item in the sum of £387.76

- **Request for funding chainsaw course** – our existing insurance cover and therefore CPC's possible public liability to be investigated before deciding on this.

- DMcG suggested that the members of the Management Committee should not be expected to fund spares etc. from their own pockets. Councillors agreed.

6. Meeting dates 2013

DW said that the Clerk had previously suggested that CPC meet every month, thus making the meetings shorter, avoiding out of meeting decisions and paying bills more promptly. The corollary may be that there would be more meetings without full attendance but we might have to accept this for the sake of the other benefits.

Clerk had provided a list of dates for 2013. Apart from April which would be on a Thursday, the rest of the meetings would be held on a Monday. Councillors approved although TPx commented that he felt a lot of members might not be willing to spare the time to attend monthly and we should review the frequency after March. This was agreed.

7. Village Day proposal

Heather Auton had approached the Council, asking for its support for the idea of a Village Fun Day, to be organised perhaps on 13 July just before the school finishes for the summer. It was

felt that the present Village Show is declining in its appeal. Councillors agreed that this was a good idea and TPx agreed to join the organizing committee as a Council observer. Heather asked if CPC could use its contacts to widen the scope for attendees. DW saw no problem in principle but suggested waiting until more specifics were available before considering practical steps.

8. **Christmas lights**

DW noted that the lights had been switched on as scheduled on Saturday and everyone agreed that they made a fine show. DW thanked TPx for his work in making it happen.

9. **Triangle island – problem**

DMcG said that he and several residents of Barrack Hill were becoming increasingly worried about the state of the triangle. Clerk said she had spoken to Highways about this regarding it being tidied up, and once about getting it carried forward for the Delegated Budget. The Local Area Technician had been to have a look. As yet, nothing had happened. DW said he would write to David Schofield to try to get a quicker response.

10. **Broadband**

DW said there was no substantive news to report. He had been told yet again that BT Openreach still do not regard our connection as cost effective as a large section of ducting apparently needs replacing. There has, however, been some movement as the Head of BT Retail has now taken over personal responsibility for negotiating with us. DW said he would keep Councillors and the Village informed about any positive developments.

11. **Village Hall Boundary/ Ownership of Plots**

Clerk had initiated a search at the Land Registry for these. Nothing heard back as yet.

12. **Delegated Budget**

Clerk explained that the Triangle improvement had been carried forward to the coming year's job applications. DMcG was concerned that it would be refused again. He also had a suggestion of how it could be refurbished in order that even if a truck were to drive onto it, it wouldn't do much damage. This will be covered under the action described in item 9 above.

13. **Community Orchard**

Subject to the results of the Land Registry searches. No further action to report at this time.

14. **Clearance of substation – progress**

DMcG told the meeting that the hurdles were almost completed. Members agreed it is an enormous improvement.

15. **Parish Plan**

CH said there was nothing new to report at the moment.

16. **Meetings –**

To report on – nothing at this time

To attend – DW to attend Liaison meeting between Parish Chairmen and CDC in January

18. Councillors' Reports

- **Open Spaces**

DMcG said the damaged public footpath sign had been replaced. Also reported that the bridge and footpath from the Littlelands entrance onto the Common had been widened.

- **Website**

DMcG said that details of the possible Village Day had been put on the website. Also said it was important that a deputy be available to look after the website in Derek Higgin's absence. MB agreed to talk to Derek about taking on this role.

- **Cricket Club**

TPx said that the 1st eleven were now Champions of their League. The two-way link with Chesham was proving beneficial but the summer's bad weather had put finances under strain and they are looking for additional sponsorship. The previously agreed placing of 2 signs outside the new gate is now costed at £55 for the sign alone and Councillors agreed to this expenditure. Regarding the gate being inscribed with the name Jack Adams, TPx said he had sounded relevant local opinion and the

view had been expressed that Jack Adams would not have wanted his name on it. It was therefore agreed not to pursue the idea further.

TPx said that he had looked through the Lease and could still not decide who was responsible for the leak. He said the water was turned off at the moment, so there will be a few months in which to do it. Legal advice will be sought on the Council's liability as landlord.

- **Tennis Club**

TPx said that the AGM was held recently. There are 102 members, 77 of whom are adults. There were no promotions or relegations. Finances are healthy. Very successful pantomime on 30th November.

- **Village Hall**

Nothing to report. Ann Lawrence asked about the Parish Council names sign. Clerk said it was done and would try and get it to the Hall over the weekend.

- **School**

LW said there were only five days left before school finished. Nothing else to report

- **Play Area**

All well, nothing to report.

- **Newsletter**

DW said the newsletter was out last weekend. He mentioned that although CPC had approved the possibility of a colour cover, the Editor had decided not to pursue it on

this occasion as the printer said it would make the inside photographs lose definition. The Editor noted that over £500 had been raised by people putting in their Christmas Greetings and that this would cover the cost of the year's 4 issues..

19. **Date of next Meeting – Monday 21st January 2013**

Meeting closed at 9.35pm

DEMOCRATIC PERIOD

Ann Lawrence asked about progress on the Community Orchard. DW said nothing could progress until the results of the Land Registry search had come back.

Ian McCallum thanked CPC for the earlier remarks regarding the Windmill Farm applications. He said that granting the certificates would set a very alarming precedent and wanted the Village to be made aware of the situation. DW said that further consideration would be given to making villagers aware of the Council's views on particular applications, especially insofar as they raised issues of more general planning significance.

