

COLESHILL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of meeting held on Thursday 8th November 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)

In attendance – Cllr. David Schofield (DS) (BCC), and six members of the public

Chairman indicated emergency exits

Apologies for absence – Cllr Sarah Parker

1. To approve Minutes of Meeting held on 20th September 2012

Minutes were approved as a true record, and signed

2. Co-option of new Councillor

Chairman explained that three villagers had originally expressed an interest but two had subsequently dropped out as, on further consideration, they had felt they would not be able to devote adequate time at present.

Matthew Bell, a resident of Coleshill for four years, introduced himself and said that he had put his name forward as he wanted to take part in village affairs.

Councillors agreed that he would be most welcome. Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed.

3. Review of current working practices of the Parish Council

Regarding the Standing Orders, DW suggested a paragraph should be added to cover the need for intra-meeting decisions in exceptional circumstances and that he would draft one to this effect.

DW proposed adoption of the CDC recommended Code of Conduct, seconded by DMcG.

4. Planning

- DW told the meeting that the application for a new alpaca shed at Bowers Farm had been granted permission. There is now a further application to renew and enlarge an existing outbuilding, partly because pumping machinery for a new borehole needs to be housed. As the shed will be quite a lot bigger and visible from the public footpath, CPC had requested CDC to look at it carefully. CH commented that it looked more like a building than a shed.
- DW said the other application was for 3/3A Church Cottages. The intention is to rationalize the existing space and will have the positive result of making the frontage match the other two properties in the row. There could, however, be possible problems both with parking outside and also the potential for more parking on Barrack Hill. As the site is in the Coleshill Conservation Area, BCC have been asked to consider the Highways implications carefully.
- Re. Wallers Oak, CDC had discovered breaches of planning in respect of a change of use of a slice of land from agricultural to residential. As this occurred over ten years ago, permitted development rights are now being claimed. Once this has been determined, CDC will move on to the question of the carport erected without permission.

5. Finance

- **Finance report** - report was approved, cheques signed
- **Audit** – Clerk informed the meeting that Mazars had finally signed off the annual audit .
- **Christmas lights replacement** – it is hoped that the lights will be up and tested by the end of November. Full switch-on should happen before 9th December in time for the Christingle Service. LW asked if the Church’s power socket was adequate. DMcG said he thought it was but that a new catenary wire was probably needed.
- **Funding request, CAB** – DW withdrew from the discussion as he had declared an interest. CAB had written requesting a donation to help them continue to offer their full services. They had explained that they were now more reliant on external funding than a few years ago. Councillors agreed that a donation of £300 be offered.

6. Amersham United Charities, vacancy

This body manages the Amersham almshouses. Gillian Bungey will be stepping down and they have written to see if there was a Parish Councillor who might be interested in taking over her place. DW pointed out that Len Tridgell is also a Trustee, so that Coleshill will still have a representative. Clerk to write and suggest they continue their search elsewhere in the village.

7. Proposed diversion of footpath 11(F)

DMcG explained that CPC would not be objecting but would like to know how they are going to gate it. Also to point out that in the interests of safety, the exit should not be on the narrow part of the lane. DMcG to draft a reply.

8. Invitation to Become Parish Representatives on the CDC Standards Committee

As a result of a suggestion by another Councillor, DW said that he would see if SP would be interested. If she was not, CPC would decline.

9. Broadband

DW pointed out that sixty residents had registered their interest in receiving Infinity since we sent out the flier. BT cannot therefore say that there is no interest in Coleshill. He has now written to the CEO of BT and the latter’s office have just been in touch to say that they are looking into the matter. Copies have also been sent to our two District Councillors, David Schofield at BCC and to Cheryl Gillan. David Schofield said he would like to circulate the letter more widely (and especially to Martin Tett, who was very keen on extending broadband access throughout Bucks) and stood ready to take any further action if we thought that would be helpful.

10. Village Hall Boundary

Clerk to carry out a Land Registry search on Village Hall boundary.

11. Ownership of Plots

Clerk also to investigate ownership of the former allotments sites.

12. Jubilee Tree

DMcG said he thought the site by the substation would be more appropriate than the other sites that had been suggested. There was general agreement on this.

The quotation for supplying a mulberry tree from Tendercare Nursery was approved. It was thought that their quote for planting was perhaps rather high. Clerk to obtain alternative quotes for this.

13. **Community Orchard**

DW said that if ownership of the allotments site can be established and Councillors wish to continue with this project, the next step might be to write to the owners to see whether they would be willing to lease an area for the orchard, or possibly even sell it.

14. **Clearance of substation – progress**

DMcG reported that it has been cleared and we are awaiting the arrival of the fencing to go round it. There was going to be a hurdle maker on site for a week, making the fence panels.

15. **Parish Plan**

CH told the meeting that she and SP had prepared the draft of a questionnaire which asks if residents would be interested, or consider it a viable project, to produce a Plan. With a bit more work, this should be ready for circulation fairly soon.

16. **Meetings – To report on –**

CDC, Delivery Development Plan Document

This is intended to replace the Local Plan, and it is hoped to be adopted in 2014. TPx said he didn't see any threat of major development in Coleshill but that, following a meeting which he and DW had attended with officials, we would be considering a brief submission to their consultation process.

To attend – nothing at this time

17. **Councillors' Reports**

○ **Open Spaces** –

- Working Party had cleared the area from the mushroom tree to the Common. We have heard from the farmer that the cattle will not be grazing on the Common this year, but he has said that, if he cannot provide them early in next year's season, he would be willing to mow the Common instead.
- The damaged footpath pole reported at the previous meeting has still not been fixed.
- We must keep up the pressure to have the triangle at the bottom of Barrack Hill/Chalk Hill restored in order to avoid the possibility of finding it suddenly tarmacked over.

○ **Website**

- DMcG said that there was now a warning on the website explaining the presence of cookies and our policy on them and privacy in general.
- It was agreed that, at the least, the Clerk should send those on the Village email list:
 - Council notices
 - Planning applications received
 - Police notices
 - Relevant roadworks
 - Severe weather warnings
- DMcG asked that PCs approve removal of the blog. He suggested calling it Village Notice board.

- **Cricket Club**
 - TPx suggested that the name 'Jack Adams Field' be put on the top bar of the new gate – possibly carved - and that the sign at the Tennis Club be replicated for the Cricket Club. Quotes to be obtained.
 - Meeting was informed that the hedge has now been cut. Also that the leak into the field from Tower Road has not been resolved. CH said she had also noticed it was much more boggy around the pitch.
- **Village Hall**
 - TPx said that a new screen which can be used for presentations had been donated by a local resident.
- **School**
 - LW reported that the 'Open Morning' just before half term was extremely successful. School had recently held a very successful concert featuring one of the parents, a concert pianist, which raised over £900 for school funds.
 - The ever popular Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday November 17th in the Village Hall.
 - The School Nativity, 'Hosanna Rock', will be on Monday 10th December at 11 am to which all villagers are warmly invited.
- **Play Area**
 - Nothing to report, all well
- **Newsletter**
 - The Editor had asked whether it would be a good idea to have a colour cover for the Christmas edition. The additional cost was minimal. Councillors approved.

18. **Date of next Meeting** – Thursday 13th December

DW told Councillors that the Clerk had recommended that CPC meet monthly in future and that we should discuss the principle of doing this at the next meeting.

Parishioners' Questions

- CW said that next April, Chiltern Conservation Board is holding an exhibition on "Surveying Wildlife on Your Common". This will take place in the Village Hall and on our Common.
- DS (BCC) gave apologies for not attending the previous meeting. He said there had been Electoral Boundary changes and that Coleshill would (for County though not District purposes) henceforth find itself with Chalfont St Giles rather than Winchmore Hill and Penn Street.
- PW said that the new Cricket Club gate, being set back further, was encouraging cars to park. It was agreed that a 'no parking' sign be considered. On the subject of intra-meeting actions, PW wanted to emphasize the importance of decision-making being publicly visible.

Meeting closed at 10.10pm