

COLESHILL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 20th June 2022 at 7.00 pm, held at the Village Hall, Barrack Hill, Coleshill

Parish Councillors: Tony Treacy (AT) Chair
Nigel Suttie (NS)
Linda Daly (LD)
Parish Clerk: Lynda Jackson (LJ)
County Councillors: nil
Members of Public: 3

Jonathan Herbert (JH)
Andrew Davis (AD)
Louise Templeton (LT)

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs. Jackson, Butcher (Bucks C) , Andrew Davis, Louise Templeton, Nigel Suttie (CPC)
- 2. Minutes of previous meetings:** It was moved by AT and **resolved** that the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on Monday 16th April 2022 be signed as a true record of the meeting.
- 3. Declaration of Interest:** None
- 4. Matters arising: Platinum jubilee street party extra expenditure** – Council had received all the receipts for the street party. Due to the increase in numbers of those that attended it was **agreed** unanimously that the extra £111.10 expenditure would be reimbursed to Sally Pool.

Increase in grass-cutting charges – JH had met with Remy who advised that rising costs, especially fuel, meant he would need to increase his charges by £5 per site per visit. Council **approved** the increase.

Anti-social behaviour incident at Jack Adams Field play trail – an incident had occurred recently where a bag of what looked like urine was left on one of the children`s swings. The matter had been reported to the police who confirmed they would increase patrols.

Meeting Closed: 19:03

DEMOCRATIC PERIOD-

- Mr Gary Clifford-Newman regarding bin collections. Mr Clifford-Newman explained that since the change in schedule by the contractor he had, along with his neighbours, not had bin collections for over 4 weeks. He had contacted Buckinghamshire Council but they had not resolved the issue. *Cllr. Rowse was aware of the problem and would take up Mr Clifford-Newman`s case with Bucks. Cllr. Cadman advised Hertfordshire House had a similar problem. Both were asked by SR to send their details to him and he would escalate.*
- Mr Len Tridgell regarding the recent research completed by Bucks Planning to find out how the service could be improved. Mr Tridgell went on to say that both he and LD had sat on a session that was very professionally done and that there was the opportunity to ask questions and raise concerns. *JH advised he also sat on a session with most attending sharing their frustration with the service. When attendees were asked what did go well the response was `no response`.*
- Mr Len Tridgell regarding the Wider call for sites including Greenfield. Did the Pc consider doing something e.g. a Neighbourhood plan? *JH advised that it would cost a minimum £20k to create a plan not to mention the time needed. This would have to come from the precept which, in his opinion, residents would not welcome such a rise to cover the cost.*

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- Mr Len Tridgell regarding helping to co-ordinate the Planning policy consultation with CPC's plan to have a policy for reviewing applications.
- Mr Len Tridgell wanted to express his appreciation of the recent village Platinum Jubilee events which were all very impressive.

Meeting re-opened: 19:30

5. Clerk's Report: - Insurance & Pond risk assessment. LJ had produced a report on the increased insurance requirements that were being insisted on by Underwriters where parishes had ponds and also volunteer working groups. LJ had also contacted local Councils to find out how they managed work parties especially where ponds were concerned. It was agreed that the use of outside agencies e.g. the Chiltern Society, Chiltern Rangers should be considered to oversee 'heavier' maintenance tasks like Pond maintenance where correct equipment, expertise and PPE would be provided. The Council has a 'Duty of Care' towards all volunteers working on the pond and Common. AT **agreed** to contact the Chiltern Society to find out more on what they could offer to ensure work is completed correctly and in a safe manner without upsetting the unique ecology of the area. The BHIB risk assessment for ponds will also be discussed with Cllr. Nigel Suttie.

6. Report from Planning, BC updates:

i) Ref. No: PL/22/1909/TP | Colehill House, Tower Rd, Colehill

OBJECTION

The copper beech at Colehill House has had a Tree Preservation order on it since 1969. It is one of a number of landmark trees in the village. The Council are concerned that such an important tree has not had a full survey completed into its viability. The information submitted with the application from a tree surgeon is quite brief and not what would be expected when dealing with a TPO tree. There is a large branch overhanging the driveway that does indeed look dead and if that is the case should be removed. The rest of the tree is currently in full leaf. Council would have hoped that trimming any offending branch or branches might be sufficient to mitigate against any potential risk to residents, visitors or passers-by. If more was required then removal of the branch or branches that were causing a risk which would then preserve the tree. A plan should then be put in place to check on the tree regularly to check for further deterioration. We would encourage the applicant to show a desire to save this important tree and first thin or reduce carefully any deteriorating branches. If agreed then cutting dead branches should be completed in the dormant growth period in the winter. The Councillors ask that the Tree Officer completes a site visit to assess the condition of the tree before a decision is made. If despite the PC's objections officers recommend the removal of the tree then would ask a condition is added that a substantial Copper Beech is planted in a suitable position to off-set the removed one. The Parish Council did contact the residents association some time ago to ask to see the survey report on the tree but at present have still not received it.

ii) Buckinghamshire Council updates – SR gave an update during Democratic period regarding the problems with current bin collections being encountered by the South of the County and also explained the changes required due to outdated rural boundaries for bin collections. SR mentioned the recent letter sent to Cllr.Tett by CPC. SR advised that Cllr.Tett would be sending a response shortly. SR advised he would, along with Cllr. Butcher, ask for local officers to come and look at the safety challenges on Magpie Lane. JH informed SR that he was meeting the LAT on 23rd June and that the speed-tubes that were down had been damaged by a vehicle and were now in the verge. SR agreed to attend the meeting with the LAT.

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SR gave more information on the Wider Call for Sites as the Brownfield nominations were not enough to cover housing demand. County will, however, continue to protect the Green Belt. County are actively looking for sites not just waiting for suggestions. Concessions have been given by Michael Gove.

SR asked that any correspondence for Cllr. Jackson be sent to himself as CJ is dealing with a family death.

iii) Transport report – JH had circulated his report. It was **agreed** that either Terence Prideaux or AT will assist JH in cleaning the village signage.

iv) Buckinghamshire Council Wider Call for Sites- Noted

7. Report from Open Spaces: LT & NS had provided reports that were circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.

i) Monthly Play inspections –LT had completed inspections at both sites. There were no immediate problems to report.

ii) Annual Play Area maintenance review – It was **agreed** that bark would be purchased and that local residents would be approached to help spread it to the required depth. It was also agreed that Remy would be contacted for a quote for weeding Hill Meadow.

iii) CMC report & Project plan for 2021-22 –The Wildlife Explorer day had been a big success. A review of last year's project plan had taken place with many positives. LJ was asked to find out why CMC were refused permission to make and place a second bench on the Common by Buckinghamshire Council.

iv) Colehill Cricket Club update – Cllr. Cadman had sent a report on recent events at the Club. NC advised that the Chair, Andrew Aylett, had resigned with immediate effect. The Council will be informed of the new Chair in due course. At present there is a degree of uncertainty into the viability of the Club for the future. The previous Chair had agreed 4yr contracts so there is now no space for Colehill to play cricket even if it had members. With no members at present the current alcohol license is invalid. It was **agreed** that details of the rules of eligibility for a Club license should be sent on to Carol Hallchurch and Stephen Inchbald who are `Events` committee members.

8. Finance: The RFO had provided a report which was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.

i) Cashbook, Bank balances and reconciliation as at 31.05.22– the previously circulated documents were **approved**.

ii) Final Accounts 2021-22 retrospective approval– LJ advised the meeting that although the Final Accounts were **agreed** prior to the Annual Return it was not documented in the Minutes that they had been approved. Council **approved** unanimously the Final Accounts for 2021-22 retrospectively.

iii) Annual Finance review - The RFO had completed a thorough Finance review and provided a detailed report on Banking arrangements, Financial Regulations, Fixed Assets and Internal Controls. In addition the effectiveness of the Internal Auditor was also included. The Council **approved** a request to the Internal Auditor for a Letter of Engagement for 2022-23.

iv) Review of Internal Controls - the RFO went through the previously circulated document which contained a review of procedures and financial controls. The conclusion was that the Council are taking appropriate steps to ensure that an adequate Control of Risk is maintained.

v) Cricket Club annual rent review - The RPI for 2022 is 9.8%. Based on the terms of the Cricket Club lease Council **approved** an annual rent increase of £31.88 .The annual rent will increase to £357.25.

vi) SLCC renewal – Council **approved** membership of SLCC for another year.

vii) Updated LTN 80- Members Conduct and the Registration of Interests - Noted

9. Items for payment:

The payments CB22-25-through to CB21-34 for June totalling £2090.14 (Inc. VAT) were **approved**.

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PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR JUNE 2022

CB No.	NAME	ITEM	TOTAL	VAT	NET
CB22-25	L Jackson	June pay	424.23	0.00	424.23
CB22-26	HMRC	1st qtr. tax	303.20	0.00	303.20
CB22-27	BALC	Commons course	35.00	0.00	35.00
CB22-28	SLCC	annual membership	112.00	0.00	112.00
CB22-29	Chiltern rangers	1st Common grass cut	420.00	70.00	350.00
CB22-30	Graham Thorne	CMC expenses 2021-22	162.63	27.11	135.52
CB22-31	L Jackson	phone top-up,ionos fee	21.99	2.00	19.99
CB22-32	Derek Higgins	Bioblitz expense	139.99	23.33	116.66
CB22-33	Sally Pool	Street party extra expense	111.10	0.00	111.10
CB22-34	R Amarasinghe	April/May grass-cuts	360.00	0.00	360.00
	TOTAL		2090.14	122.44	1967.70

10. Councillors reports for areas of responsibility:

Platinum Jubilee Beacon & Street party – AD had sent a report of both events which had been a huge success. Council wanted to thank Richard Valentine, Sally Pool, Eileen Gershon & Chris Suttie who without their huge commitment these events would not have got off the ground. It was agreed that letters should be sent thanking them on behalf of the PC.

Amersham Community Board update – LD had circulated an update on the work taking place looking for `food champions` within allotment sites and horticultural groups to collect surplus grown food and deliver to a local hub. An article will be placed in the next newsletter.

11. Next Meeting date: Monday 18th July 2022 7.00 pm at Colehill Village Hall

20:16pm.Meeting Closed.

Signed Date