

# COLESHILL PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES

Of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 7.00 pm, held at the Village Hall, Barrack Hill, Coleshill

Parish Councillors: Tony Treacy (AT) Chair  
Nigel Suttie (NS)  
Louise Templeton (LT)  
Parish Clerk: Lynda Jackson (LJ)  
County Councillors: Cllr. Tim Butcher (TB) from 19:30  
Members of Public: 18  
Jonathan Herbert (JH)  
Andrew Davis (AD)

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs. Jackson, Rowse (Bucks C) , Linda Daly, Neil Cadman (CPC)
- 2. Minutes of previous meetings:** It was moved by AT and **resolved** that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2022 be signed as a true record of the meeting. **\*\* An email received from Andrew Aylett on 22.8.22 challenging what he thought was incorrect reporting of the Cricket Club in the minutes was noted. Details of the email are included below in Democratic period.**
- 3. Declaration of Interest:** Cllr. Jon Herbert item 6i) Bowers Mill Farm
- 4. Matters arising:**

**Parish Noticeboard repairs** – 2 quotes were received quickly as the noticeboard needed urgent repair. JH contacted Jack Haubner and together they repaired and refurbished the noticeboard for the cost of materials only. AT thanked both Jon & Jack for getting this work done.

**JAF entrance fence repair** – An urgent repair was required to one of the planks of the fence. Cllr. Cadman arranged the repair for a cost of £40.

**Pond Grab hire quotes** – The CMC undertook work on the Pond to remove invasive plants. The amount removed was more than would fill the Hippo bag that had been granted free of charge. It was agreed by the committee that a grab lorry should be used to not only clear up the waste but also remove some of the high levels of silt that had accumulated. 2 quotes were requested and the work was awarded to A40 Grab Hire. The work was undertaken today but extra waste was requested to be taken at extra cost resulting in a rise in costs of £350. This was **agreed**.

**Meeting Closed: 19:05**

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### DEMOCRATIC PERIOD-

Due to the numbers in the Hall wanting to speak to Council, the Chair reminded everyone that all opinions were welcome but the expectation is participants comments will be respectful to others.

- Andrew Aylett email regarding the Cricket Club received on 22.8.22. *Regarding CPC meetings in June and July and would like to correct some of the statements made by Cllr Cadman (see below) regarding the ground share arrangements that I put in place when I was Chair of the Cricket Club. 1) I did not agree 4 year contract with the Club's three ground share partners. Only Chesham CC was offered a 4 year agreement (at their insistence) but in fact no agreements were signed by me or the third parties. I deliberately did not pursue the signing of the agreements as the CPC made it clear that they intended to force a review of the Club's lease at the end of the 2022 season and, under those circumstances, it would be impossible for the Club to enter into any binding agreement with Chesham, Jordans or Future Legends beyond 2022.*

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2) The ground share arrangements did not and do not preclude Colehill from playing crickets at the JAF. I agreed with Jordans that, should there be sufficient numbers of Colehill players wanting to play, Sunday cricket would be played under the name of Colehill and Jordans Taverners CC. As it turned out, only two Colehill payers (to my knowledge) played on a Sunday and it therefore made no sense to instigate a joint Colehill/Jordans team. It was also agreed with Jordans and Future Legends that, should there be sufficient interest, Colehill CC would play limited over cricket at the JAF on mid-week evenings. It is therefore entirely wrong to suggest that the ground share arrangements that were necessary to provide the income to secure the continuity of cricket at the JAF, in any way prevent Colehill CC from playing friendly cricket should there be sufficient interest. Indeed, I went out of my way to ensure that this was not the case.

3) As stated above, no agreements were signed by me for the reason outlined.

4) The PC was kept fully informed of the Club's plans and discussions with ground share partners. On 6th December 2021 I sent the draft letters of agreement with Chesham and Future Legends to you (there actually was no agreement drawn up with Jordans as we agreed to continue on an informal basis given the uncertainty regarding the lease with the CPC). To suggest that the PC was not clear as to what I 'signed up for' suggests otherwise.

Out of courtesy I have copied Stephen Inchbald in on this but, as I am not involved with the Club, this email is sent on a personal basis as my name is mentioned several times in the minutes. I'm quite sure that Neil's reports were made in good faith but, as I know you will agree, it is important fully to check the facts before they go into the public record. I would therefore be grateful if you could please ensure that the inaccuracies in the minutes are amended at the next CPC meeting and covered in the subsequent minutes.

"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. 1) The previous Chair had agreed 4yr contracts so there is now 2) 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"

"Cllr. Cadman had sent a report on recent events at the Club. NC advised that the Chair, Andrew Aylett, had resigned completely from the Club. The understanding NC has is that 3) Andrew Aylett signed 3 agreements to cover the cost of running the ground. These agreements were with Future Legends, Chesham cricket club and Jordans Taverners cricket club. The Cricket Club currently has no chair although it is thought that Stephen Inchbald may caretake as Chair. NC advised the finances at the Club are healthy. Unfortunately the Club has lost its long serving President Tony Barber. As there is no functioning committee at present it was agreed unanimously that the 3 sub-contracts should be contacted for copies of their agreements so that 4) CPC are clear as to what Mr Aylett signed up for in this year of dispensation against sub-letting"

- Terry Reilly email received 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022- Regarding the management of the Common and Pond. As a resident of over 30 years it's very disappointing to see the grassed area of the common in such a neglected state (even after the Chiltern Rangers valiant attempts to cut it). I think I'm in good company holding this view, but others may think its neglected state is ideal for wildlife. I'm aware that the PC has delegated management of the common to the Common Management Committee but the question is where does the CMC get its mandate for how the common should be managed. Surely the PC should be setting the common management objectives and the CMC should devise the plan to achieve them. I'm not aware of villagers or the PC ever being asked whether the common should be maintained as a wildlife sanctuary or a recreational resource for villagers. As it is very few villagers make any use of the common other than for dog walking. Not every village is lucky enough to have a common and I believe the PC should survey villagers on how they would like to common to be managed - wildlife sanctuary or recreational resource. If the majority want a wildlife sanctuary then the CMC is already doing a sterling job. My own view is that the common management plan should include:
  - Maintaining the verges and ditches by annual cutting and clearing
  - Maintaining the wooded areas by clearing paths, and any fallen or diseased trees
  - Cutting and clearing the grassland paths and eastern grassed end every year for picnics and games (for those so inclined)

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- *Cutting and clearing one third of the remaining grassland on a three year cycle to provide a maturing habitat for wildlife could go on about the pond too, which seemed to look after itself just fine for the first 20 years we lived here, but that's probably a lost cause.*
- *Marian Davies regarding the Pond. I spoke to the driver today who said he might come back next year but it's a pity it wasn't done earlier. I would like to know what the plans are now, who is going to manage it and what the new plants will be like. I can get frogs and toad spawn. There is obviously something going very wrong at the pond. There is no life at all in the pond. There is no fish someone got rid of them. I want to raise the issue about water. I don't understand why tap water can't be used when the pond dries up. You can't say it's to do with the wildlife because there isn't any. The Common is dangerous with wood left by the paths. The Wheatsheaf path, if you go at dusk, is dangerous. AT interrupted and said that the Wheatsheaf path is yet to be finished. Ms Davies went on to say that paths do not need to be stiff and starchy.*
- *Dave McGhee regarding the Pond – I would like to give a different view. I have thought the pond has never looked better it looks more natural. I think the Common is well looked after and a lot of effort goes into it.*
- *Kate Barber regarding the Pond – You couldn't see round the pond. There used to be such lovely flowers I understand conservation is very important but it used to be such a lovely space. Generations of youngsters used to fish in the pond and learnt to respect the pond.*
- *Gary Clifford-Newman regarding the Common-Mr Clifford-Newman explained his youngest child goes to the Common a lot and the benefits are very welcome. He thought the Wildlife event was brilliant but where the round table is needs to be made easier to use. He didn't expect it to be like a lawn but some compromise in that space would be welcome.*
- *Terry Reilly further comments regarding how the Common is managed- Mr Reilly felt the Parish Council should be setting the agenda for maintaining the Common which the village should have a say in.*
- *Marian Davies further comments regarding how the Common is managed – If there was some sort of plan people would be happy to come along and help.*

AT added there will not be a discussion now but I see there is an appetite to do something. It's great you have come along and we will come back to you. We do recognise our responsibilities and its importance to people.

- *Brian Hester regarding the Common – It's a Common it should not be treated like the Lake District. It should be cut properly not Chiltern Rangers coming along and having a tractor that breaks down. Brambles are growing everywhere.*
- *Chris Suttie regarding the Common – I don't know whether people know that the CMC are getting advice from professionals on how to manage the Common. I don't think people realise just how much time the CMC volunteers put in.*
- *Ros Pearce regarding volunteer help for litter-picking- is there any way to get more people involved with the weekend litter picking. It is always the same small group of people and surely it's time to have some of the younger residents in the village involved. I also pointed out that, when we were locked down for Covid, there were masses of villages who turned out and brought their children.*
- *Len Tridgell thanked LJ for answering the Electoral Boundary consultation questions. He went on to add that we are not part of Amersham but in a group that included Little Chalfont.*
- *Len Tridgell regarding the recent road resurfacing that is making the village look more attractive although they are now being flooded with rainwater.*
- *Len Tridgell regarding logs that have been put down on the verge by the sharp bend to Bottrells Lane allotments. Mr Tridgell considers them dangerous.*
- *Dave McGhee regarding a large drain that has been tarmac'd over on Tower Road.*
- *Gary Clifford-Newman regarding the waste collection by Bucks to his property and his neighbours. Waste operatives are still not collecting the bins from the sides of Romany Cottage, Chapel Cottage & Copper Cottage on Village Road. This has been happening since the schedule changed. The waste team claim an operative has been hurt and it has now become a Health & Safety issue. Mr Clifford-Newman is concerned as*

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*one of his neighbours is heavily pregnant and the operatives want the bins dragging out each week and leaving on Village Road. Cllr Butcher agreed to take up with Bucks Waste this issue.*

- Gary Clifford-Newman regarding the Jack Adams Field. Mr Clifford- Newman is regular visitor to the JAF along with his young daughter and is concerned about the number of dog owners who do not clean up after their animals. It is a constant battle to be on the look-out to ensure his daughter does not fall or tread in the mess. Mr Clifford-Newman asked the Council if they could do something to raise awareness of this problem as it knocks ones confidence when children fall in the mess. The JAF & play area are fantastic facilities which is being blighted by a lack of respect by some dog-owners.
- Tony Barber regarding the JAF. Mr Barber remarked that when the outfield was cut regularly dog-owners could see where their animals had fouled. Now as it is not cut this is not the case.

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#### Meeting re-opened: 19:39

- 5. Clerk's Report: - Civility & Respect amongst fellow Councillors** – LJ had circulated to all Councillors the latest promotion of civility and respect towards fellow Councillors by NALC & SLCC. It was **approved** unanimously that CPC would sign up to the Civility & Respect pledge. LJ also reminded Council the correct process for complaints against fellow Councillors and the Grievance procedure for Clerks.
- 2023-24 Meeting dates** – The dates circulated by LJ were **approved** unanimously.
- Home-working allowance review** – AT proposed that the allowance be increased in line with HMRC guidelines to £12 per month. This was **approved** and will be back-dated to 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022.

#### 6. Report from Planning, BC updates:

- i) Ref. No: **PL/22/2718/FA** Wheatsheaf Cottage Village Road Coleshill HP7 0LR **NO OBJECTION**  
Ref. No: **PL/22/2733/FA** Brentford Grange Farm Amersham Road Coleshill HP7 0JU **NO OBJECTION**  
Ref. No: **PL/22/2752/FA** Grove Mill Windmill Hill Coleshill HP7 0LZ **NO OBJECTION**  
Ref. No: **PL/22/2852/FA** Bowers Mill Farm Magpie Lane Coleshill HP7 0LU **NO OBJECTION**  
Ref.No: **PL/22/2852/FA** Greenstead Magpie Lane, Coleshill HP7 0LU **NO OBJECTION**

ii) **Buckinghamshire Council updates** – TB gave an update on Bucks Council matters. He was concerned that when Village Rd & Tower Rd were recently resurfaced that the work to raise ironwork was not completed first. TB is meeting the new Local Technician tomorrow so please raise any issues that need to be brought up at the end of the meeting. Bucks are struggling with budgeting when there is 10% inflation and precept increases are capped at 3%. The Council must make savings of £100m+ over the next 4years. Bucks energy costs are capped until April but the Council had bought their energy in advance for the next 2yrs. The Ukrainian Host scheme is coming to an end after 6months. Further offers are mostly in the north of the County but families are living in the south. The Council will have to find the funds to solve this as children are settled in schools and this mustn't be disrupted. In addition the Council must not show a preference to Ukrainian refugees over the homeless or other refugees.TB will come along to the Remembrance service in Coleshill to lay a wreath on behalf of Buckinghamshire Council.

iii) **Transport report** – JH had circulated his report. JH reported that he had met the new LAT & Rosie Tunnard at the recent TFB conference. JH advised the meeting that Fix My Street was by far the quickest and easiest ways to report problems and urged all residents to report matters themselves. There is a Fix My Street app for phone use so that reporting can include a photo of the problem.

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There has been some progress on reducing the speed limit on Magpie Lane. TFB have agreed to do a full costing with the suggestion made that CPC can fund it but also ask Amersham Community Board to match-fund. JH had been advised that it was worth getting indicators, white gates, to let motorists know they are entering a village. It was **agreed** that JH should explore the installation of white gates. It was also **agreed** that residents be asked to contribute to the funding of the speed reduction on Magpie Lane.

**iv) Have your say on our draft recommendations for Buckinghamshire Council-** The deadline for the consultation has been extended until December. It was **agreed** that CPC had nothing to add and would prefer to remain within the Chalfont St Giles Ward.

**v) South Central UPW consultation survey** –It was **agreed** that NS would complete the survey to show an interest and find out more on the scheme.

**vi) Beaconsfield Neighbourhood plan re-submission consultation – 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. The bark at Hill Meadow had been topped up to  $\frac{3}{4}$  level. It was **agreed** that the same funds would be put into next year's budget so that a further order can be placed in the Spring. Funds would also be put into the budget to replace the bark boundary.

**ii) CMC report, Pond work & Budget request for 2023-24** – The reports for September & October were noted. The 1<sup>st</sup> draft of the CMC budget for 2023-24 had also been submitted & circulated to councillors. AT asked whether the work from the tree survey had been completed. Graham Thorne advised it hadn't. AT asked whether it was to be done this year or provision made in the budget for next year. AT asked about the ash tree near the pond that had reported ash die-back and was provision needed to deal with it, being mindful that children play in this area. The CMC will need to budget for it. NS was asked to discuss with the CMC the additions needed to the budget and submit to the Clerk ready for the December meeting.

**iii) Coleshill Cricket Club update** –Councillors had been given notes of the meeting between the Club and Jon Herbert. The Club wanted to ensure that the Council were aware of all the facts regarding the Club as there were a number of rumours circulating around the village that were untrue. The Cricket Club will come to the December meeting to present their proposal for the next year's season and the future of the Club if it is different to them operating as a sole Cricket Club. A new Chair and President will be appointed at the AGM due in November.

**iv) Christmas lights quote and email from All Saints church** – The church warden had contacted CPC as the electrical wiring for the Christmas lights was non-compliant. JH met with the wardens to investigate and was able to wire in the lights correctly to the satisfaction of the wardens. A PAT test will be arranged by JH and a copy will be sent to the church administrator. A quote had been received for replacing the lights. JH advised that some bulbs had gone but most were ok just covered in lichen. Before a decision is made on replacing the lights a much more detailed quote will be required e.g. number of lights. JH suggested employing a cherry picker next year to clean the lights and replace bulbs that are no longer working to extend the life of the lights.

**v) Willow trees at pond, concerns, quotes, advice & planning application** – The owner of Park End cottage had contacted Council as he was concerned that the roots of the willows were damaging the foundations of his property. Quotes had been received for pollarding and removal. Advice had also been sought from David Stowe's tree surgeon who recommended pollarding. JH explained that the home-owner is concerned about root damage, willow roots are quite shallow and so possibly a 3ft trench could be dug and refilled to restrict the roots. The home-owner's view is to take down the trees. JH was mindful that the trees are a feature of the pond and the village. NS advised he

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thought you could see tree roots running under the garage and one idea being floated was to remove the first tree. It was **agreed** the tree officer at Bucks should be contacted.

**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 28.09.22** – the previously circulated documents were **approved**.

**ii) Budget for 2023-24 1<sup>st</sup> draft** – The first draft had been circulated. It was agreed that the budget for hedge and verge cutting would be amended after receipt of David Hall's invoice as it was expected to be higher due to the rise in diesel costs. It was also agreed that the newsletter budget would be reviewed once Xmas greeting contributions for this year had been received which would be before the next meeting. Elaine West is unable to be the drop-off point for contributions this year, it was suggested that AD ask Elaine who might be willing to take on the task as it was important they lived in the village for people to be able to drop off their greeting and contribution if paying by cash or cheque.

**iii) 2nd quarter review 2022-23 Actual vs. Budget expenditure** – Council had received, as part of their papers, the 2 files that show receipts and expenditure so far for this financial year. Since the first review additional comments were that IONOS costs were expected to be over budget as a new website was going to be built. It was thought it might be an idea to wait until the new financial year. The newsletter is running over budget due to the monthly subscription for software. The play area was running over budget due to the extra bark required.

**iv) SAAA2022 Opt-out Communication** – It was **agreed** that CPC would not opt-out

**v) Work place pensions re-enrolment** – It was **agreed** that LJ would complete re-enrolment on the first available date

### 9. Items for payment:

The payments CB22-41-through to CB21-53 for September totalling £2872.34 (Inc. VAT) and CB22-57 through to CB22-61 plus CB22-64 for October totalling £2871.02 were **approved**.

#### PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2022

CB No.	NAME	ITEM	TOTAL	VAT	NET
CB22-41	L Jackson	August pay	446.40	0.00	446.40
CB22-42	Church noticeboard Co	final payment	1023.90	170.65	853.25
CB22-43	R Amarasinghe	June grass-cuts	180.00	0.00	180.00
CB22-44	D M Payroll Services	1st half fee	60.00	0.00	60.00
CB22-47	Printed Easy	newsletter printing	249.00	0.00	249.00
CB22-48	L Jackson	September pay	307.03	0.00	307.03
CB22-49	HMRC	2nd qtr. tax	270.80	0.00	270.80
CB22-50	L Jackson	phone top-ups, IONOS fees, postage	46.53	4.00	42.53
CB22-51	A Treacy	play bark for Hill Meadow	180.20	29.16	151.04

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CB22-52	J Herbert	noticeboard materials for repair	68.54	11.45	57.09
CB22-53	A Davis	software subscription x 2	39.94	0.00	39.94
	<b>TOTAL</b>		2872.34	215.26	2657.08

### PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR OCTOBER 2022

CB No.	NAME	ITEM	TOTAL	VAT	NET
CB22-57	L Jackson	September pay	355.05	0.00	355.05
CB22-58	L Jackson	IONOS, top-up, remembrance wreath	45.97	5.00	40.97
CB22-59	Chiltern Rangers	2nd Common grass-cut	480.00	80.00	400.00
CB22-60	Michael Connelly	Mushroom tree	70.00	0.00	70.00
CB22-61	R Amarasinghe	July/Aug grass-cuts	360.00	0.00	360.00
CB22-64	A40 Grab hire ltd	Pond clearance work	1560.00	260.00	1300.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>		2871.02	345.00	2526.02

10. Councillors reports for areas of responsibility:

11. Next Meeting date: Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022 7.00 pm at Coleshill Village Hall

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**20:59pm.Meeting Closed.**

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Signed ..... Date .....