

# COLESHILL PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES

Of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7.00 pm,  
held at the Village Hall, Barrack Hill, Coleshill

Parish Councillors: Tony Treacy (AT) Chair  
Louise Templeton (LT) Ben Morgan (BM) Jon Herbert (JH)  
Gemma Clifford-Newman (GCN)  
Nigel Suttie (NS)

Parish Clerk: Lynda Jackson (LJ)

County Councillors: 0

Members of Public: 2

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs. Tim Butcher, Carl Jackson (all Bucks)
- 2. Minutes of previous meetings:** It was moved by AT and **resolved** that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023 be signed as a true record of the meeting.
- 3. Declaration of Interest:** AT was mindful that the Magpie Lane speed restriction is on the agenda and that some councillors have connections with the road. AT reminded them that decisions would be made and considered as councillors representing the village not in a personal capacity.
- 4. Councillor vacancy – 1**
- 5. Matters arising:**  
**Remembrance service councillor representative needed:** AT is unavailable on 12<sup>th</sup> November BM agreed to check and if available would be happy to read at the War memorial after the service.  
**Meeting Closed: 19:03**

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### DEMOCRATIC PERIOD-

- *Email from Terence Prideaux regarding placing on record recognition of the significant time put in by Cllr. Jon Herbert on the magpie lane project.*
- *Jan Atkinson regarding the Magpie Lane speed reduction proposal. Ms Atkinson suggested that even if CPC confirm they want to go ahead it may well still not go ahead as the process has to go through legal services which can take up to 9 months. The process is very arduous, and you may be chasing something you may not get. Ms Atkinson advised the meeting that in her opinion CPC should listen to John Pateman`s advice as he has the experience on these matters. Ms Atkinson went on to state that if the scheme does go ahead then minimum signage should be used as this is a very rural village.*
- *Jan Atkinson regarding HS2 and the Amersham shaft. Ms Atkinson was concerned that early morning shift changes (4am) were contributing to higher-than-normal numbers of vehicles using the village as a cut through to the A355. Some of the vehicles are large causing high noise levels. The vehicles are coming up New Rd, along Village Rd and then down Magpie Lane to get to the A355 rather than going the normal way via Gore Hill which is a longer route. (AT will review his doorbell camera)*
- *Jan Atkinson regarding the road diversions that get put in place for the Charter Fair in Amersham. The diversion comes through the village which cannot be right. She has seen diversion signs at the bottom of New Rd. (LJ will check with Bucks)*
- *Jan Atkinson regarding the overgrown verges especially at the bottom of New Rd at the junction with A404. Pulling out at this junction is dangerous as you can see past or through the vegetation.*

# COLESHILL PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES

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*In the past Bucks cut the verges 4 times per year. (LJ advised it is now twice a year and residents are advised to report on Fixmystreet any areas where there is poor visibility in between cuts. Ms Atkinson was advised to send any logged incidents to local Bucks councillors so that they could escalate).*

- *Len Tridgell regarding the Cherry tree farm development. Vehicles are leaving the site, especially after rain, which spreads clay and stones along the road which is dangerous. ( LJ will contact landowner).*
- *Len Tridgell regarding the Kissing gate at the public footpath on Tower Rd which has still not been fixed. (LJ will contact landowner for an update).*
- *Len Tridgell regarding the Jack Adams Field. Mr Tridgell thanked Council for the recent grass-cut.*

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#### Meeting re-opened: 19:26

**6. Clerk's Report: - Clerks forum**– LJ had sent councillors minutes of the recent forum she had attended.

**Hills Wood update** – Cllr Phillips (Ch.St Giles) had received information that since the works at the woods and the attention put on it, the unsavoury activity had diminished substantially.

**1<sup>st</sup> draft of Budget 2024-25** – LJ had issued the 1<sup>st</sup> draft of next year's budget based on feedback from councillors, there followed an in-depth discussion on how the current shortfall identified could be funded. The 2<sup>nd</sup> draft will be circulated and discussed at the October meeting and the proposal for the precept request. It was agreed that LJ should write to the editor of the newsletter to ask for an estimation of Xmas greetings and when the deadline will be for payment so that a true figure of receipts can be inserted before finalising the budget.

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

**i) Ref. No: PL/23/2181/CONDA | Former Tower View Tower Road Coleshill - Noted**

**Ref. No: PL/23/2263/SA | Ambleside Tower Road Coleshill HP7 0LB. - Noted.**

**Ref. No: PL/23/2315/FA | Hill House Windmill Hill Coleshill HP7 0LZ – OBJECTION** - Not far from the property is a historic windmill that is a landmark of the village. The Windmill has already been allowed to become obstructed from public view by a succession of enlarged and additional buildings and a very high boundary hedge on the street frontage of Windmill Farm.

The council is concerned that this development will further block views of the Windmill and convert two semidetached houses into what will become a terrace of three houses. The direct neighbour will have to put up with have an end of terrace rather than what is currently a semi-detached. The plans show that the proposal is close to the neighbouring property which is in a street scene that has space and light between most houses. The proposed parking is for only one car which is considered not sufficient and will most likely result in more on road parking.

**Ref. No: PL/23/2545/FA | Hertfordshire House Coleshill Lane Coleshill HP7 0PD – NO OBJECTION**

**Ref. No: PL/23/2546/HB | Hertfordshire House Coleshill Lane Coleshill HP7 0PD - NO OBJECTION**

**Pre-Planning Consultation Cornerstone 13649123 -amendment**

**- NO OBJECTION**

**Town & Parish planning surgeries - Noted.**

**ii) Bucks update** – No-one available to attend.

**iii) Transport report** –JH had circulated his report prior to the meeting. JH spoke about the money raised so far in pledges for the Magpie Lane speed reduction but that the timescale for confirming to go ahead was extremely short. JH asked for approval to send a letter to Martin Tett, Head of

# COLESHILL PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES

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Bucks, asking for his reassurance that the figure of £16k was fair and reasonable and the timescale for responding was in line with usual Bucks contracts. Councillors **voted unanimously** to send the drafted letter. It was **agreed** that JH with the help of AT should hire a platform to check the fittings of the Xmas lights to try and give them extra life until a full replacement is decided. It is estimated the cost will be around £320 +VAT. A new set of lights is expected to cost more than £3k at today's costs.

**iv) Copy of Byelaw under section 236(9) LGA 1972 -Noted**

**v) Broadband village coverage by BT**– The response received from Sarah Green MP & Lloyd Little (Bucks) was **noted**. The village being supplied with ultra-fast broadband is dependent on government contracts. The aim of BT now is that they will reach 25million premises by 2026.

**vi) Speed limit change for Magpie Lane PID**– A long discussion was held around the recent costing PID received from Bucks for reducing the speed limit to 30mph. AT believed that everyone should be equal and be able to step out onto 30mph roads as a minimum and if we were able to affect change we should. The cost and timing are an issue as a year ago it was estimated the cost would be £7k now it is £16k and there is no clear understanding why such a large increase. It would be obvious to Bucks that a parish of this size would struggle to raise the money required. Originally, we were given 2 weeks to decide but this has been extended to 22<sup>nd</sup> September. AT talked through his forward planning document where some of the cash held in the deposit account, not general reserves, could be used to make up the shortfall. A detailed discussion took place on the pros and cons of using this method and the strong case of levelling up the village to 30mph. Pending clarification from Martin Tett 5 councillors agreed to go ahead with 1 councillor not. Confirmation will be sent to Bucks Highways on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, but they will be told that the Council have challenged the process and new cost. BM raised the question as to what happens if the change comes in under the quote does Council get a refund.

**vii) LTN78 Equality Act 2010 - Noted**

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

**i) Monthly Play inspections & PROW report** – Nothing to report, the fence at the Jack Adams field had now been refurbished. LT wished to thank JH for assembling a team of volunteers to do the work. It was **agreed** that LT would contact Align to find out about their community fund and whether an application could be made to refurbish Hill Meadow play area.

**ii) CMC report** – Council had been sent a report on recent works completed by the CMC. The CMC were supporting an application by Chalk Pit House to take down 3 trees adjoining the property which were diseased and growing through power cables. The trees were considered unsafe. A request had also been made to remove brushwood and vegetation overhanging the property that were giving access to Glis Glis. Council approved the work which would be funded by the owner. David Stowe (Bucks) had visited the Pond with his tree surgeon who supplied a quote to remove 3 ash trees, 2 of which had ash die-back the other had other issues identified. The quote would be in the 24-25 budget and the work would be completed in the spring. It was **agreed** that a planning application should be submitted as the trees are in the conservation area. The CMC will replant when appropriate. Work has begun clearing `The Ride` on the common. Quotes are being obtained for tree work that cannot be completed by the CMC.

**iii) CMC budget 2024-25 2<sup>nd</sup> draft** – The CMC had sent in the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft of their proposed budget for 2024-25 for Council to review and approve before sending to Bucks. The budget was **approved** in principle but would hold back until quotes are received for the grassland family area cutting. The budget will be sent to Bucks by end of September.

**iv) Xmas lights check** – see item 7ii)

# COLESHILL PARISH COUNCIL

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v) **Proposed trench for willows – response from Park End cottage** – a response had been received and circulated prior to the meeting. AT advised that the owner of the property was not prepared to contribute to the cost of the work. He now wanted the trench plan to be checked, which would probably require a new planning application. The owner also would not release the Council from any liability if the trench did not work as planned. AT proposed that given this information then Council should not proceed but continue to keep an eye on the condition of the willows and act accordingly if needed. The proposal was **agreed** unanimously.

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

i) **Cashbook, Bank balances and reconciliation as at 31.08.23** – the previously circulated documents were **agreed**, there were no outstanding issues. GCN is now a signatory and will apply for internet banking.

ii) **Change in IONOS charges-** the increase was **approved**.

### 10. Items for payment:

The payments CB23-48-through to CB23-52, CB23-55 through to CB23-63 for August & September totalling £2632.56 were **approved**.

#### PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2023

CB No.	NAME	ITEM	TOTAL	VAT	NET
CB23-48	L Jackson	July pay	377.21	0.00	377.21
CB23-49	L Jackson	Ionos fee, top up & IONOS My website now, postage	42.19	5.00	37.19
CB23-50	A Davis	editor software for newsletter	19.97	3.33	16.64
CB23-51	IKON ICT	office subscription	10.30	0.00	10.30
CB23-52	R Amarasinghe	Common verge cutting	560.00	0.00	560.00
CB23-55	L Jackson	August pay	338.44	0.00	338.44
CB23-56	L Jackson	Ionos fee, top up & IONOS My website now	39.99	5.00	34.99
CB23-57	J Herbert	materials for JAF fence repair	111.99	18.67	93.32
CB23-58	A Davis	editor software for newsletter	19.97	3.33	16.64
CB23-59	IKON ICT	office subscription	10.30	0.00	10.30
CB23-60	R Amarasinghe	June grass-cutting	360.00	0.00	360.00
CB23-63	Chiltern Rangers	grassland cut	480.00	80.00	400.00
CB23-62	HMRC	2nd qtr. tax & ni	262.20	0.00	262.20
	<b>TOTAL</b>		2632.56	115.33	2517.23

### 11. Councillors reports for areas of responsibility:

# COLESHILL PARISH COUNCIL

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**New website update** – AT advised the meeting that he was struggling to get the project completed and asked if anyone can help.

**12. Next Meeting date:** Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023 7.00 pm at Coleshill Village Hall

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**20: 42pm.Meeting Closed.**

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**Signed** ..... **Date** .....