

# COLESHILL PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES of meeting held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2013, in the Village Hall

**Present:** Councillors Ware (Chairman) (DW), Hallchurch (CH), McGhee (DM), Parker (SP), Prideaux (Tpx) and Woodgate(LW).

BCC Councillor Butcher

CDC Councillor Harris

9 members of the public

*Before starting the agenda, the Chairman informed the meeting that the Clerk had been suddenly taken ill last night and was currently in hospital. She was wished a speedy recovery by all.*

### 1 Minutes of last meeting (15 April)

Text of draft previously circulated to all by the Clerk approved. To be formally signed by DW at later stage.

### 2 County Councillor

Councillor Butcher introduced himself as our representative for the newly-drawn constituency of Chalfont St Giles, Seer Green, Jordans, Goldhill Common and Coleshill. He wanted to assure us of his intention to ensure that Coleshill did not “fall down the cracks”. There are some anomalies resulting from the boundary change – that Coleshill remains in a different LAF and has another Local Area Technician, for example, and it might make sense in due course to make all the boundaries co-terminous.

Councillor Butcher plans to attend our meetings every quarter. He reminded the Council that he has £2,500 available from the Government’s community fund for local projects, which we are invited to tap into.

### 3 District Councillor

Councillor Harris said that new waste bins would be delivered in the first half of June and the new collection schedule start the following month. Serco have street-cleaning as part of their contract and we should call CDC if we needed to avail of these services.

### 5 Planning

Oak Tree Cottage. At our request, CDC Planning Enforcement made a site visit to the property last week to inspect the apparent construction of a basement -- for which approval was not sought -- under the new house. We are awaiting a report from the official concerned and news of any action they intend to take.

Waller’s Oak. CDC’s earlier rejection of a retrospective application for the carport has been appealed. A Government Inspector visited the site late last month and his decision is awaited.

Windmill Farm. At their meeting last Thursday, CDC’s Planning Committee considered the Article 4 Direction imposed on the property in December and due to expire next month. The Committee decided that the Direction should not be confirmed.

## **6 Finance**

In the unavoidable absence of the RFO, no finance report was given.

It was noted that the Clerk had spoken to Paul Evans about the previous payment arrangements for his work at the play area. He has decided that he does not want to continue on the basis of the new terms proposed. A replacement will therefore have to be found.

Discussion of trends in Receipts and Payments will be tabled at the next meeting.

## **7 Tree Preservation Orders**

Following the large-scale clearance of vegetation at the front of Cherry Tree Farm, TPOs had been applied for -- and granted -- in respect of 5 oak trees on the site.

It was also noted that a survey of all Village trees would be undertaken over coming months.

## **8 Village Day**

The Quiz fund-raising event takes place on 14 June. Only after that will it become clear whether or not the Day will be self-financing.

The question of public liability insurance for the Day has arisen and the Organizing Committee apparently wonder whether either CPC or Village Hall policies might cover it. DW commented that he knew that Village Hall cover would only extend to activities in and in the immediate vicinity of the Hall. Cover provided under the CPC policy would be checked but he thought that a separate policy had to be purchased for last year's Jubilee celebrations.

## **9 Neighbourhood Plan**

An initial questionnaire has been prepared by SP and CH. This will be circulated to other Councillors for final comments before appearing as an insert in the forthcoming Newsletter.

## **10 Dog Bins**

These are on order. The Clerk will be asked to ensure that we have notice of their delivery so that they can be positioned correctly when they arrive.

## **11 Penn Festival**

Two meetings of the SAG have been held. The measures successfully used last year to monitor and control noise levels will be employed again this year and we are urging that they also be used as a template for any similar events in the future. The underlying position should be more favourable to Coleshill this year as the main sound stage will now point away from us.

DM mentioned that the Festival's organizers aim to make it a larger event over time, attracting perhaps up to 5,000 visitors.

## **12 Triangle**

BCC Highways have explained that they do not have sufficient funds to undertake this work as they have to prioritize safety-related repairs. Councillors felt that it was important to continue the discussion, emphasizing that safety is indeed an issue if the triangle eventually becomes invisible. The Clerk will write again to Highways and the Chairman will try to enlist the support of our County Councillor.

## **13 Democratic Period**

Discussion of the correct positioning of this section of CPC meetings was deferred until next time.

## 14 Meetings

Nothing to report

## 15 Councillors' Reports:

**Open Spaces.** Nothing to report

**Website.** Data on the number of hits received by the site (and their significance), together with the possibility of compiling a Village e-mail list, would be discussed next time.

**Cricket Club.** TPx reminded the meeting of the Club's poor financial position and its appeal for more financial support from villagers.

**Tennis Club.** Nothing to report.

**Village Hall.** TPx mentioned that the Hall's AGM had just taken place. Its healthy financial position had been noted, as had the possibility of using some of its reserves to make further improvements. A new Treasurer was appointed.

**School.** Nothing to report.

**Play Area.** Apart from noting that a new goal net had been ordered but not yet installed, there was nothing to report as such. LW wondered, however, whether we should contemplate a general Village clean-up sometime. It was agreed to discuss this at the next meeting.

**Newsletter.** Copy deadline this Friday 24<sup>th</sup> and circulation two weeks thereafter.

## 16 Date of Next Meeting

Monday 17 June at 8pm.

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## DEMOCRATIC PERIOD

- *Mrs Lawrence asked for the date of the Penn Festival (19-21 July).*
- *Mr Wege asked whether we are still paying for water in the Pond to be topped up, as this a factor to be considered in his Pond Management report. DW noted that we had paid a water bill in December but he would ask the Clerk to investigate further.*
- *Mrs Richardson commented on the state of the play area which, she said, was now used by up to 14 children. She felt that, quite apart from the grass which was in major need of a cut, nettles and brambles were rampant, the bin was overflowing, two steps on the ladder were rotten and the gate was unduly noisy. In addition, the climbing equipment was in need of refurbishment. The Chairman said that her complaints would be investigated and the general subject considered again at our next meeting.*
- *Mr Nolan noted that the Article 4 direction at Windmill Farm had not "lapsed" but had not been confirmed. He felt the distinction was important. He stated for the benefit of the meeting that he simply wanted to extend what he and his wife had always regarded as their family home; his plans went to great lengths not to obscure views of the Windmill; and that he remained open to constructive dialogue with CDC.*

- *Finally, Mr Barber had several points. First, he felt that there was a profusion of waste bins outside some (unspecified) houses, which was detrimental to the appearance of the Village. Councillor Harris said that he would take this up with officials but that there was little available by way of legal redress. Peer pressure was likely to be more effective. Secondly, the pavement at the triangle end of Hill Meadow needed urgent attention. The Chairman said that, after investigation, we would write to CDC and BCC (given that each is potentially responsible). Thirdly, Mr Barber returned to the Cricket Club's financial position and asked if CPC (as landlords) would object if the Club sounded out mobile phone companies to see if they were interested in putting up a mast somewhere inconspicuously on the ground. Since the Club had just lost a major sponsor and their £2,000 sponsorship, it was urgently looking for replacement funding. The Chairman promised that this would also be considered at the next meeting. We would look at the precise wording of the lease in the meantime.*
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## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

### **1 Chairman's Report for 2012/2013**

The Chairman gave his annual report, the text of which is appended to these minutes.

### **2 Election of Chairman for 2013/2014**

Dick Ware confirmed that he was stepping down as Chairman. Terence Prideaux was elected in his place, proposed by Councillor Parker and seconded by Councillor McGhee.