

## Minutes of the meeting of London Colney Parish Council held in the Sports Pavilion, Morris Playing Field, London Colney, held on Friday, 11 January 2008 commencing at 7.30 p.m.

**Present:** Mr C Flynn (Vice Chairman)  
 Ms EM Gordon  
 Mr H Jones  
 Mr D Katuwawala  
 Mr K Bowes  
 Mr R Cooper  
 Mrs M Crouch  
 Mr N Mahoney

**In attendance:** Mrs G Patschinsky (Parish Clerk)

### 1 Members Declaration of Interests

Mr. Flynn declared an interest in all planning items as a member of the District Council's Plans South Committee and agreed to take no part in any decisions made.

### 2 Apologies

Apologies have been received from:

Mr M MacMillan  
 Mrs L Gibling

### 3 Minutes

**Resolved that** the Minutes of the last meeting of the Council held on 7 December 2007, having been circulated previously to all members, be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

### 4 Matters Arising from the Minutes

239 Finance  
 (c) Further information about the Open Spaces Society and their work was received and it was **resolved** that a £50 grant be made.

240 Town Planning Matters  
 Responses to three planning applications delegated to Councilor Gordon at the last meeting have been sent to SADC as follows:

5/2007/2739	Two storey side extension and first floor extension to create one-bedroom self-contained unit, 307 High Street	Objection - parking & road safety issues
5/2007/2860	Two storey and first floor front extension, 8 Thamesdale	No comment

5/2007/2771	Single storey side extension, 10 Napsbury Avenue	No comment
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248 Biscuits for the Over-75s

Members were advised that the Council have received a number of written and verbal thanks from recipients of the Christmas biscuits.

249 Sheltered Housing Review

Confirmation has been received from SADC Housing Services that Karen Dragovic and Linda Middleton will be able to attend the next meeting of the Parish Council on 1 February 2008 to provide a briefing on the Sheltered Housing Review.

## 5 Police report

A written report had been received from the Police regarding incidents in London Colney over the last month. This was read to the meeting, however it was noted that there had also been two muggings in the village that had not been included in this report.

## 6 Question Time

In response to Minute 245 a member of the public asked who the EERA, producers of the East of England Plan, were and expressed concern that they are covering proposed gypsy sites etc. Councillors advised that the EERA is the East of England Regional Assembly - a co-opted council which is a subsidiary of the EU Assembly - and they have been tasked by the EU to make recommendations regarding gypsy sites. In respect of the sites proposed in this area, representation has been made to the EERA.

A member of the public noted that there seemed to be an increase in the amount of litter when children are on school holidays, but also felt that there were fewer waste bins. It was requested that we should note where the bins are lacking and request for new ones to be put into place and to ensure that where bins have been removed due to damage, etc that these be replaced. Councillor Flynn agreed to take the matter up at a Hertfordshire Highways meeting he is to attend.

Councillor Crouch also pointed out that the area from the lakes to the by-pass has a litter problem arising from the drivers of parked lorries on the adjacent site, even though two large bins have been put in place by the neighbouring site managers. Some of the undergrowth has been cut down along the fence-line to discourage rubbish etc from being left. It was **agreed** that a site meeting would be arranged between Councillors Crouch and Flynn and the Litter Enforcement Officer with a view to taking the matter up with the site's managing agents. The matter will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

## 7 Correspondence

- a) Correspondence was received and noted from London Colney Village Concern re 'Concerns for Local Traffic Circulation near London Colney, relating to proposed rail-freight terminal' and 'Analysis of problems associated with Colney Fields at London Colney'.
- (b) Copy of Age Concern's minutes from Elderly Locality Planning Group (ELP) meeting held 10/12/07 was received and noted
- c) A request for donation/fundraising help was received from Herts Air Ambulance Appeal and it was **agreed** that further information should be obtained from the appeal before a decision about support be made.
- d) An invitation to enter Village of the Year competition was received from the Chairman of Hertfordshire County Council and it was **agreed** that the Project Manager obtain the relevant documentation and establish the time and resource commitment that would be required to enter this competition before a decision on participation is made.
- e) An invitation to attend 'Recycling in St Albans - the Way Ahead' event being held on 24 January 2008 was extended to members of the Council and Councilors Jones and Mahoney agreed to attend.

## 8 Groundsmen's Report

- (a) The Clerk made a verbal report to the meeting on the Groundsmen's activities:  
 Over the last month ongoing maintenance has been undertaken throughout the Parish on the football pitches, hedges and drains. New seats are being made for the paddling pool area - a sample of which was in the hall for members to see - and it was **agreed** that further material be purchased to enable more seats to be made.  
 The repair to the fencing on Walsingham Way playing field that was minuted in December 2007 has now been completed as the tenant has moved out. In addition, the area of dumped soil in Walsingham Way is being landscaped and planted with native hedgerow plants.  
 The showers in Morris Way Pavilion have been repainted and the gutters and drains have all been cleared.  
 The pickup developed an engine problem in December and the head has been replaced.  
 Forthcoming work to be undertaken in January/February is as follows:  
 Low Bell Lane - cleaning up and replanting with shrubs  
 Chester Gibbons Green - it was **agreed** that additional topsoil should be purchased in order to allow further planting/replanting.  
 Childrens Play Area, Morris Way - it was **agreed** that new fencing material be purchased to replace the existing fencing and renew the gates.  
 Village Green/White Horse Lane - a number of tree stumps need to be removed from these areas and it was **agreed** that a stump-grinder be hired for the required number of days at a cost of £92 for the first day and £20 per day thereafter as this is more economical than employing external contractors at a cost of £80 - £90 per stump for removal

- (b) The Council's policy on letting pitches for occasional Sunday afternoon matches, football practice and training games prior to the beginning of the season was considered. It was agreed that the Council's policy that there should be no Sunday afternoon football should remain as it is and that all teams must abide by the published rules or they will be not be allowed to hold any further games on the Council's pitches. The Clerk advised that the Football Booking Clerk had advised that there were some additional rules to be added to the updated Terms and Conditions recently circulated and the members **agreed** that these be added.
- The Council also **agreed** that there would be no training on the pitches out of season as this is an important period for maintenance and reseeding of the pitches. It was felt, however, that it would be permissible for training to take place on the areas off the pitches in Shenley Lane and on Walsingham Way play area. There would be no charge to teams for using these facilities.
- (c) The Clerk reported back to the Council the results of an inspection of allotments. It was **agreed** that letters should be written to allotment holders where there are over-size or unsafe structures on the allotment advising that these must be removed or they will be in breach of their contract with the Council and such may have their tenancy terminated. It was also agreed that it must be made clear to new tenants that they must ask the Council's permission before erecting any structure on the allotment and it was **agreed** that a form to enable tenants to apply for permission in writing should be drawn up. Where allotments do not appear to be being worked it was **agreed** that we wait until the spring before writing to tenants to ask if they wish to continue with their tenancy.

## 9 Finance

- (a) **Resolved that** the list of accounts attached be approved for payment.
- (b) The draft financial report for the year to date to end December 2007 was received and noted.
- (c) The proposed schedule of instalment payments of the Parish precept from SADC was received and noted.
- (d) The second draft of the budget for 2008/2009 was received. Councillors were advised of updates since the first draft which had been previously circulated and were asked to contact the Clerk if they have any queries or updates.

## 10 Town Planning Matters

Town Planning applications concerning London Colney received by the District Council were examined in conjunction with the relevant plans and it was

**Resolved that** the following comments should be conveyed to SADC:

5/2007/2508	Erection of two, one bedroom flats at Land adj 9 Alexander Road London Colney	OBJECTION Parking included within curtilage but no amenity space and concerns regarding access and road safety.
5/2007/2717	Installation of ATM machine to front elevation of existing retail unit at 1 Colney Fields Shopping Park Barnet Road London Colney AL2 1AB	NO COMMENT
5/2007/2804	Extension and conversion of ten, one bedroom and two, two bedroom flats at 2-4 Shenley Lane London Colney	OBJECTION Overdevelopment and concerns over road safety as this application shows access to be directly onto Shenley Lane.
5/2007/2849	Garden shed/summer house at 159 Cotlandswick London Colney AL2 1EG	Although no objection, Councillors wished it to be noted that they expressed complaints that this application is <b>retrospective</b> .
5/2007/2873	Retention of temporary classroom at Alexander Hall Evangelical Church Alexander Road London Colney AL2 1HT	NO COMMENT
5/2007/2883	Single storey rear extension and front porch (resubmission following refusal of 5/07/2392) at 50 North Cottages Napsbury St Albans AL2 1AW	OBJECTION This application has been previously refused and there are concerns regarding the impact on adjoining property.
5/2007/2978 CP	Certificate of Lawfulness (proposed) - Loft conversion and rear dormer window at 69 Shenley Lane London Colney AL2 1LN	NO COMMENT
TP/07/2092	Erection of EDF substation, Former Savacentre site, Colney Fields, Barnet Road, London Colney	NO COMMENT
5/2007/2878	Display of one non illuminated fascia board sign at Old Verulamians Rugby Football Club North Orbital Road London	NO COMMENT

5/2007/3035	Display of non-illuminated sign on front elevation and replacement illuminated storefront sign (amendment to planning permission 5/07/2080A) at Sainsburys Ltd Barnet Road London Colney AL2 1BG	NO COMMENT
5/2007/3063	Demolition of detached garage and erection of single storey side garage with workshop (resubmission following refusal of 5/07/2363) at 72 Five Acres London Colney AL2 1JD	Councillor Gordon requested copies of the previous plans which were refused be examined prior to a decision being made on this application.

Councillors requested that SADC be asked for the following applications with objections be called in:

5/2007/2508

5/2007/2804

5/2007/2883

District Councillor Catherine Gardner brought to the attention of the meeting that an application had been received today on the Planning lists from DB Rees Builders for the demolition and redevelopment of the Kings Head Public House site into residential units. It was noted that the building was not listed although there was a query over whether part of the building may listed. It was also noted that the application has been called in on the grounds of overdevelopment and parking problems. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would obtain copies of the plans from SADC and that a complaint should be made regarding the short time-frame for responses given the size and position of the proposed development. It was **agreed** that consideration of the application was delegated to Councillors Gordon and Mahoney who will consider the application and make recommendations for a response. This will be circulated to other members of the Council for approval before submitting to SADC. A representative of the Historical Society agreed to look into the question of whether parts of the building were listed.

## 11 Projects Update

A written report was received from the Project Manager which was considered by the members

- (1) Walsingham Way - a copy of the proposal from Groundwork Hertfordshire was on display at the meeting for members to view. Members commented that equipment shown looked very good and requested a timeframe for completion. The Project Manager was requested to respond to a request from Groundwork Hertfordshire for an indication of the budget for this project.

- (5) Dudley Wood - The Project Manger was requested to confirm whether the ownership of the Wood had now been transferred to the Parish Council and to advise the Groundsman.
- (13) Shenley Lane - It was noted that we are still waiting from an action plan, time schedule and Project Plan from Groundwork.
- (14) CCTV - It was noted that the possibility of a CCTV Camera being installed at he Community Centre was being looked into,
- (18) The Clerk reported that the Project Manager had met with a surveyor from Rumball Sedgwick to establish the feasibility of replacing the cabin with a brick built structure. Additional surveyors/architects had also been contacted to quote for giving a report on the site.

## 12 Hertfordshire Highways

The Council received and noted notification of the proposed road safety improvements to Kings Road. Copies of the plans showing the proposed improvements were available for viewing.

## 13 Annual Calendar of Meeting

Members considered the request to set up a calendar of meetings for the Council sub-committees and working parties but it was decided that as most of these groups meet as and when required rather than on a regular basis, this was not necessary. It was however **agreed** that dates should be set as follows:

- (a) General Purposes and Policy Development Committee - Councillors Gordon and Bowes and the Project Manager should agree a schedule.
- (b) Playing Field, Allotments and Footpaths Committee - The Groundsman should be requested to advise a suitable date in March/April for a meeting.
- (d) Events Working Party - Councillor Gordon to advise of a schedule.

## 14 Date of the Next Meeting

It was **agreed** that the next meeting will be held on Friday 1 February 2008.

## 15 Reports of Meetings Attended

Councillor Cooper reported on the Police Ward meeting attended by himself and Councillor Jones. The three PCSOs based in the village are assigned to different areas - one to Colney Fields, one covering London Colney Village and the third covering the Park Street area. One of the PCSOs previously assigned to the Village is now training to be a Police Officer. There had also been very positive feedback regarding the CCTV installations in London Colney.

Councillor Bowes reported that he had attended a Flood Meeting and advised that he had requested that a CD, designed to help evaluation of risks and development of Flood Action Plans be issued to the Parish Council. It was also requested that any details of Flood Wardens be passed to Councillor Bowes who will report back to the next Flood meeting. It was also suggested that an article should be placed in the Parish magazine.

Councillor Crouch had attended the Parish Liaison meeting where a number of issues were discussed.

Parking on pavements - A list of principles on pavement parking and verges was presented to the Liaison Meeting which stated that it is possible to stop someone driving on a pavement or verge, but not parking. It was hoped that parking on pavements would be declared illegal with a £50 - £80 fine.

Bus Stops - It had been suggested that bus stops should include indicator boards to give information on bus services

Traffic Flow in St Albans - It was hoped that there would be improvements to the traffic flow in St Albans with the introduction of bus lanes and consideration was being given to making St Peter's Street a car free zone.

Tourism - It was reported that tourism brings in in excess of £100 million to the area and also brings some benefits to residents eg free museum entry.

Colney Heath travellers site - It was reported to the meeting that Colney Heath had lost their appeal against the development of the former travellers site in Colney Heath Lane on the grounds of insufficient Travellers' facilities in the area.

Closing Parish Liaison Committee - A resolution had been presented to close this committee. It was felt that the terms of reference for this committee should be looked into in light of this resolution. Councillor Gordon advised that the committee had been set up, with elected members from the Parishes, to ensure that Parish Councils were able to discuss matters with Officers from District. It was felt that the Committee had recently been run down with a lack of attendance from Officers and that this was going against the national trend. Concerns had also been expressed on the level of service received from District Officers. It was **agreed** that a motion be placed before the next Council meeting regarding this issue.

Roundabout sponsorship - This matter had been taken up previously with Jim Benning and it was agreed that the Clerk should follow this up by writing to him again to establish what the expectation are when roundabouts are sponsored.

## 16 Any Other Business

Parish Environmental Action Plan - One member of the public has come forward to stand on this working group, but further members are required. It was agreed that an advertisement for additional members be placed in the next issue of the Parish magazine and that an inaugural meeting be arranged. Councillor Bowes **agreed** to undertake these matters.

Salisbury Hall Brook - A letter from the Environment Agency updating progress on establishing the cause of recent pollution in Salisbury Hall Brook was reported to the meeting. The matter is still under investigation with assistance from Thames Valley Water and we will be advised of the outcome of further investigations.

HAPTC Risk Assessment Seminar - It was **agreed** that the Clerk should take up the offer of a free place on this Seminar.

HAPTC Councillor Workshop - It was **agreed** that details of this workshop should be circulated to all Councillors.

## **17 Exclusion of Public from Meeting**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act, 1960, it was **resolved** that the public now be excluded from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

## **18 Close**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.40pm

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Chairman  
1 February 2008

**London Colney Parish Council**

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT TO BE PRESENTED AT THE  
MEETING HELD ON THE 11 JANUARY 2007

			Cheque No/ Payment type
AC Dodd	Computer Repair	£ 55.00	300592
All Saints Pastoral Centre	Xmas Ball Room & 72 x Dinner	£ 1,672.00	300591
APL Print	London Colney News Issue 92	£ 1,546.00	300593
BT	Phone Bill 821314	£101.44	
	Phone Bill 822209	£ 54.16	
	Phone Bill 822742	£ 56.15	
		£ 211.75	Direct Debit
Cask Business Services	Book keeping December	£ 36.00	
	Office Administration December	£ 288.00	
	Christmas Ball Menus	£ 10.00	
		£ 334.00	300594
F & R Cawley Charnwood	Trade Refuse Nov 07	£ 92.00	300595
	Collection Buckets & Seals	£ 49.91	Debit Card
	154 High Street Rent Dec07- Mar08	£ 1,875.00	300596
Day & Bell	Pavilion Maintenance	£ 74.73	300597
Gibbs & Dandy	Pension Payments	£ 770.76	300603
Herts CC	Fuel November 07	£ 234.74	300598
Lawrence Auto Marks & Spencer	Christmas Biscuits	£ 79.84	Debit Card
Olivers	Playing Fields Maintenance	£ 127.36	300599
Revolution Seals	Playing Fields Maintenance	£ 164.88	300600
St Albans Tyres & Exhausts	Machine Maintenance	£ 5.87	Debit Card
Wolseley	Playing Fields Maintenance	£ 21.57	300601
Various	Xmas Ball Expenses - Crackers	£ 34.93	300602
	Xmas Ball Expenses - Band	£ 500.00	CASH
	Transfer to Wages A/C	£ 8,779.42	300604
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 16,629.76</b>	

PAYMENTS MADE TO THE PARISH COUNCIL AT  
THE MEETING HELD ON THE 11 JANUARY 2008

Various	Adverts in L C News	£ 345.50	
Various	Christmas Ball	£ 1,100.00	
Various	Xmas Ball Raffle & carol singing	£ 732.55	
Various	Hire of Hall	£ 214.50	
Various	50% Fireworks cost	£ 1,321.87	
Various	Allotments Rent 2007/8	£ 27.00	
Various	Donations	£ 90.00	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 3,831.42</b>	